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- Noesys 1.1
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- LANsurveyor 4.0
- Claudine Teaches French
- You Don't Know Jack
- Français 1
- Entable
- Hades Challenge
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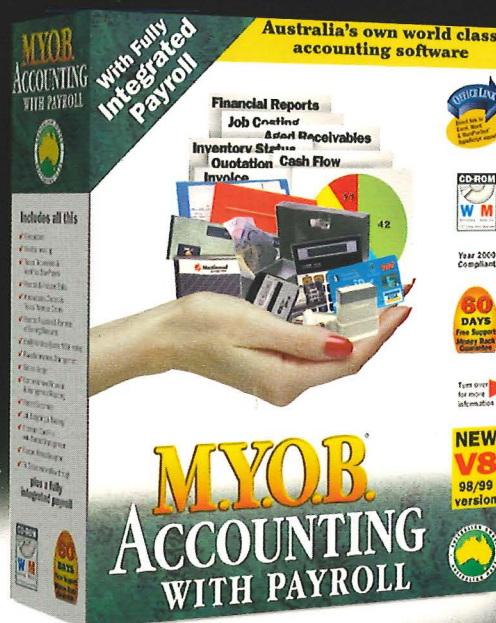
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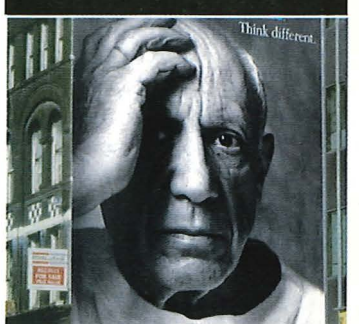
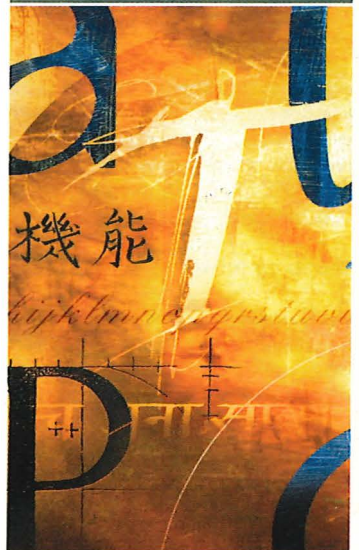
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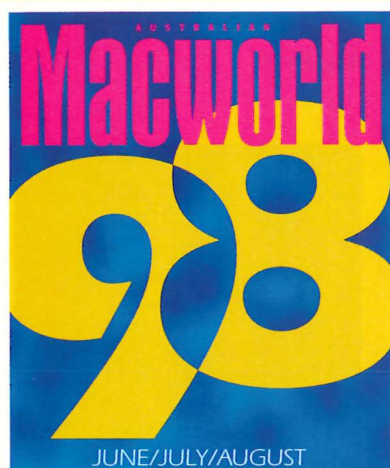
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COMING SOON

Monitor user's guide

With its release of ColorSync 2.5, Apple is working hard to cement its position as the leading platform for graphics and colour publishing. This feature will show how to use ColorSync, the Monitors & Sounds control panel and other Apple and third-party technologies to get the most out of your Mac's most vital companion—your monitor.

Internet-standard email

Internet-standard email is everywhere, even on LANs that used to run different protocols altogether. This feature will map recent trends in this area and evaluate the leading client programs.

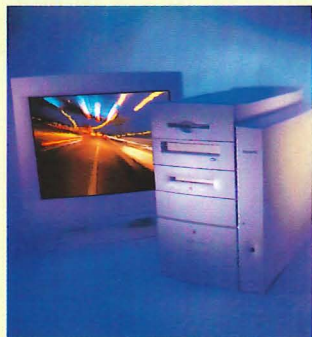
Shopping for secondhand Macs

Don't miss this feature if you want to know where to find secondhand Macs, how to make sure they're in good working order, and how to determine which models best fit your needs and budget.

FireWire: fast, hassle-free video

FireWire interfaces are being built into the latest generation of video cameras and Radius has software and a FireWire interface for the Mac. The result? Getting high-quality video from your camera to the desktop is about to become significantly less complicated than programming a VCR.

BEHIND THE COVER



Photography by
Giampiero Benevenuti.

EDITORIALLY SPEAKING

Playing with a full deck

If Steve Jobs turns up on your doorstep with a bag of chips, some sour cream dip and a six-pack of organic orange juice, pray he's not crashing your poker game, because Apple's "interim" CEO never shows his hand until he's ready to call, and the company he co-founded cleans up every time.

If the rumour-mongers are correct, Steve Jobs is holding a royal flush, aces high: another profitable quarter; ultra-cheap Macintosh hardware; the first customer release of Rhapsody; a major revision of Mac OS; and a permanent chief executive officer for Apple. Read 'em and weep, suckers.

Not that any of this can be gleaned from the company's poker-faced representatives, most of whom are playing their cards very close to the corporate chest. And the very few who don't are those who apparently become the "anonymous sources" that feed the world's first global real-time rumour mill: the internet. The hottest gossip usually makes its way to <www.macosrumors.com> and <www.macnn.com/reality>.

Internet rumour one: another profitable quarter. By the time you read this, Apple may have announced that it has repeated its January 1998 coup with a second consecutive quarter of profitability.

Internet rumour two: ultra-cheap Macintosh hardware. Apple has already announced that it will be replacing the \$1325 eMate 300 with a product that runs Mac OS. Rumour has it that the company is also working on an Apple Media Player (aimed at the market that ignored the Pippin) and a cheap all-in-one G3 Power Macintosh. Many speculate that these cheap Mac OS systems could be positioned as network computers (NCs), relying on ultra-fast Rhapsody servers for file services and application hosting.

Internet rumour three: the first customer release of Rhapsody. Remember those one-box/two-box/yellow-box/blue-box diagrams that Apple Computer initially used to explain its road-map for Rhapsody and Mac OS? Well, they're nowhere to be seen these days. Nonetheless, most expect the first release of Rhapsody to include far more Mac OS-compatibility than Apple ever promised, along with advanced features such as symmetrical multiprocessing and protected memory.

Internet rumour four: the next major revision to Mac OS. Allegro, as Mac OS 8.2 is known, should be close to 100-percent PowerPC native, making for noticeable gains in speed and stability. Also, rumour has it that Allegro will feature "forward compatibility" with Rhapsody.

Internet rumour five: a permanent chief executive officer for Apple. Every second week someone comes out with another rumour about Steve Jobs either finally accepting the position of CEO, or making way for some high-flying recruit from IBM, Sony or wherever. At writing, however, it appears that no-one wants to force Jobs to make a decision about his future at Apple—he's simply doing too good a job. Jobs will show his hand when he's good and ready, and we can expect his royal flush to floor Apple's few remaining doubters.

Steven Noble,
Editor.



Fungus?

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MailBox

Bring on the ads

Could someone please tell me why it is taking Apple Australia so long to screen the excellent G3 ads from the US that I am seeing on the internet? I realise the Think Different ads are being screened in Australia (I have yet to see one), but I still have friends buying Wintel boxes because they believe Apple is going down the gurgler. Some of them, when I explain the benefits of the Mac, and its ability to run Windows, say "What have I done?" I suspect by the time we see real kick-butt ads lay down the facts, the G3 will be old news. I am sick to death of seeing Intel parade all over my television screen. Come on Apple Australia, show yourself!

Carl Williams
Rosanna, Vic

Ed: Apple Australia is not available for comment on this matter. However, the company is successfully building "brand equity" with its current Think Different campaign—an important first step in any long-term marketing push. In February 1998, The Australian Magazine and Ad News gave their Award for Creative Excellence to this campaign.



On March 11, Apple launched a new 30-second television advertisement in the US, apologising for "toasting the Pentium II in public" with its new ultra-fast G3 Power Macintosh systems.

Star Trek duo

I could not believe the review of the Star Trek Encyclopaedia by Stephen Dunne in the March 1998 issue of *Australian Macworld*. Dripping with sarcasm and slurs, it was obviously written by someone who holds Star Trek in open contempt.

Captains Chair aside, I bought a copy of the Star Trek Omnipedia, a single-CD version of the Encyclopaedia, and found it to be an incredibly well done piece of software. It contains virtually every fact from the TV shows and movies, as well as a multitude of sounds, video clips and full-colour pictures. It is good fun and a serious reference work, despite being based on fiction.

I agree that non-fans would find it a waste of time, but giving a wonderful product a two-mice rating? Flipping back one page I see three video-effects plug-ins rated at four mice or more each. Sure, they must be worth these mouse ratings, but not to people who do not use that type of software. I suggest getting a reviewer who has not rated the software before he tries it out.

Stephen Harrington
Sale, Victoria

Think enough!

Well Apple has now killed Newton. What personal agendas might be behind this who can say. We can say this much—Apple has now killed two of its significant technologies in the past few months: OpenDoc/Cyberdog and Newton. Both had sizeable developer and user communities. People who, at Apples encouragement, committed significant resources to these technologies. People who's livelihoods depended on them.

Apple so far has given no indication that it will sell or licence these technologies and allow others to continue their development.

This is a sickening trend in the software industry: create a technology, kill it, then keep it dead to prevent it competing with whatever you want to replace it with.

Frankly, I see no reason whatsoever why companies should be allowed to keep intellectual property rights to software they themselves don't want to maintain.

If they have no plans for it, why not set it free? It worked for Linux.

Matthew Godden
Newtown NSW

Re: Price concern

Just a comment in relation to Bill Harrington's response to the letter "Price concern" in the March 1998 issue of *Australian Macworld*: All the points he made in relation to the differences between Macs and PCs are fine. But he has to accept that Mohammed's perception is quite valid for the Australian marketplace.

With the absence of a proper marketing campaign to clearly point out the benefits of the Mac over its PC rivals what else can people like Mohammed be left to judge on except price?

Toby Beedell
IT Manager,
Results Corporation Worldwide

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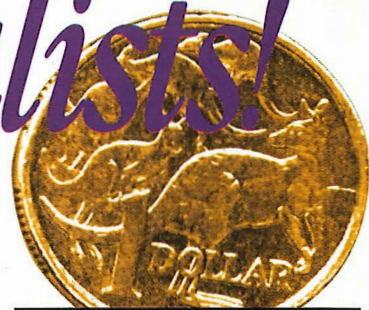
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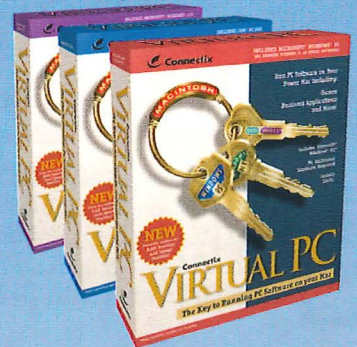


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MacNews

MAC OS SYSTEMS

G3 roll-out creeps forward

After Apple Computer Australia's successful December release of 233MHz and 266MHz Power Macintosh and PowerBook systems based on the PowerPC 750 ("G3") processor, the company has experienced moderate delays in bringing 300MHz G3 systems to market. Also, the company is yet to add an all-in-one desktop, or next-generation PowerBook, to its G3 line-up.

Of the 300MHz G3 Power Macs, Apple Computer Australia's manager for Macintosh Bill Harrington says, "We were hoping to ship in April... but it won't be until May that we'll ship outside the US."

Unlike Apple in the US, Apple Computer Australia is not presently announcing an all-in-one G3 system. "The Power Macintosh G3 all-in-one was developed to be delivered in time for the start of the US education buy period and will be sold into the US and Canada education markets only," says Harrington.

He says this is because Australia's education buy period is currently ending, and because they would sell here for about the same price as the current 233MHz G3 systems while offering less flexibility.

"In the future we do plan to offer lower price-point G3-based products... to education and consumer markets," says Harrington, "but the product announced in the US doesn't fit that requirement."

Also, Harrington has no

comment on internet rumours that Apple Computer is about to revise its PowerBook G3 range, saying that current PowerBook 1400 and G3 models will continue selling well for some time yet.

— Steven Noble

Exclusive lab test / 300MHz G3

Apple's latest attempt to move the Mac further ahead of Intel's Pentium II processors is the 300MHz addition to the Power Macintosh G3 line. While this Mac tower contains the fastest PowerPC 750 processor yet and performs 18 percent faster than the 266MHz G3 Mac, it isn't the technological advancement expected by Macworld Labs. Except for the faster processor, the new G3 Mac is the same as previous models—even the bus speed remains at 66MHz, rather than the 83MHz expected by now.

Although Apple says that a faster bus would not have made an appreciable speed difference for this model, Macworld Labs is concerned that Macs could once again fall behind PCs if Apple does not equip them with faster architectures. Intel is soon to announce 350MHz versions of the Pentium II, which is expected to hit 400MHz speeds later this year, using buses as fast as 100MHz.

Based on our tests of a prototype, the new 300MHz G3 models should be the fastest shipping Macs yet, but the architecture clearly could stand improvement to increase speed, as shown in the results from the prototype 300MHz system (also using a 66MHz bus) that Motorola had planned to ship last year, before Apple ended most Mac OS licensing.

— Allyson Bates

Model	SpeedMark 1.0 score
Motorola StarMax Pro 6000/300 prototype	5.6
Apple Power Macintosh G3/300 tower prototype	5.3
Apple Power Macintosh G3/266 tower	4.5
Apple Power Macintosh G3/233 desktop	4.0
Apple Power Macintosh 9600/300	3.9

Longer bars are better. Best overall performance in red. SpeedMark scores are expressed as multiples of the speed of a Power Mac 7100/80, which has a score of 1.0. Macworld Lab's SpeedMark test suite runs 54 real-world tasks in 15 programs and the Finder. The tested systems were running Mac OS 8 and had 32MB of RAM, a 512K system disk cache, and a 16-bit video display set at 832 by 624 pixels. Macworld Lab testing supervised by Gil Loyola.

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BUSINESS

Hard times for distributors



Sixteen of the vendors whose products are distributed in Australia by 1World Systems.

NEWS BRIEFS

Macromedia has announced Fireworks, which it is describing as the first production tool to provide a unified environment for creating, optimising and producing **high-quality graphics for the web**. Fireworks supports visual export preview, complete control over compression and colour palettes, automatic generation of button states and JavaScript rollovers, and text and effects which are editable all the time, according to Macromedia. Fireworks lets designers create the most compact graphics and GIF animations in the fewest steps, the company says.

At writing, a **pre-release beta version of Fireworks** is available for download at no charge at <www.getfireworks.com>. The commercial version will be approximately \$500, and Firmware Design hopes to have stock by mid-year: 02 4721 7211; fax 02 4721 7215; <www.firmware.com.au>.

Mitsui Computer—a major distributor of computing products—announced in early April that it is closing down. The move came soon after Bocker Investments announced that it had bought 1World Systems, a major distributor of networking products.

Distributors are the companies that move products from the producer to the retailer. In remote countries such as Australia they are importers that also provide technical and marketing support. Some distributors also sell direct to end-users.

Mitsui managing director John Durbin attributes the company's demise to "ever-decreasing margins and every-spiralling costs," factors which he says have affected all Australian IT distributors over the last year. Mitsui distributed Power Computing's Macintosh clones in Australia before Apple bought back Power's license.

Customers who require information about products they purchased through Mitsui Computer are invited to call 1800 801 444.

In late March, the Canadian company Bocker Investments—owner of the Australian distributor Sealcorp—acquired 1World Systems. Although the distributor will be relocated to Bocker offices, the company says that 1World Systems and Sealcorp will continue to operate as separate business units. Previously, 1World Systems was part of the liquidated Collinscroft group, along with the IC Technologies chain of Apple-authorized resellers (see April 1998, page 13).

Di Ryall, managing director of Apple Computer Australia, says both distributors had cross-platform businesses and faced challenges that were not unique to the Macintosh market.

—Steven Noble

QUICKTIME MEDIA LAYER

Apple ships QT3, Pro

Apple Computer has released the end-user version of QuickTime 3.0, four months after shipping the developer release of QuickTime 3.0 and three months after the end-user version was initially meant to ship. Apple has also released QuickTime 3.0 Pro, and announced that it will release QuickTime for Java.

QuickTime is Apple's platform for the delivery of "dynamic content" such as movies, MIDI sound tracks and virtual-reality panoramas. It is available in Macintosh and Windows versions.

New features in QuickTime 3.0 include compression technologies licensed from Sorenson, QDesign and Qualcomm, virtual reality integration, support for over 150 SMPTE-approved video effects and transitions, and over 200 MIDI-compatible sounds and instruments from Roland's Sound Canvas sound set, according to Apple.

Version 3.0 can also playback over 30 audio and video file formats and streams digital content, letting internet users start viewing a movie before it has fully downloaded.

QuickTime Pro refers to the authoring, editing and advanced

playback capabilities that can be unlocked in QuickTime 3.0 once the user purchases a key from Apple Computer. "Some of those [Pro] features were available in QuickTime 2.5," says Allan Bell, manager for software, Apple Computer Australia. "QuickTime 2.5 continues to be available free," Bell adds, "so there's no obligation for someone who doesn't need the features of QuickTime 3 to move up to it."

Apple has also announced QuickTime for Java, which will let developers write Java programs that incorporate QuickTime content and functionality.

A developer release of QuickTime for Java is now available via <www.apple.com/quicktime>; the end-user version is forthcoming. QuickTime 3.0 is free and available now from <www.apple.com/quicktime>. Apple Computer Australia will be distributing QuickTime 3.0 CDs at trade shows and possibly via Apple Software Upgrades (1300 300 771) for \$15 shipping and handling. The key that unlocks the Pro features of QuickTime 3.0 can be purchased from Apple Software Upgrades for \$45, or for \$US29.99 via <www.apple.com/quicktime>.

—Steven Noble

MONITORS

Apple flattens the display

Apple Computer is set to release the Apple Studio Display, its first stand-alone flat-panel active-matrix liquid-crystal display. ADS is twice as crisp and bright as standard cathode-ray-tube monitors, Apple says.

"The Apple Studio Display is the first flat-panel monitor designed to meet the advanced needs of Apple's publishing and video customers," says Steve Jobs, Apple's interim CEO.

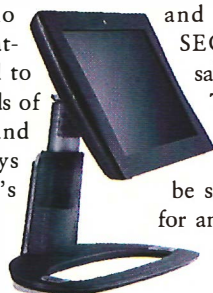
ADS's 15.1-inch screen offers a viewable

area equivalent to many 17-inch monitors, Apple says, while occupying less than half the desktop space and using a third the power.

ADS supports resolutions from 640-by-480 to 1024-by-768 pixels, a wide viewing angle, and NTSC, PAL and SECAM input, Apple says.

The company expects Australian Apple-authorized resellers to be stocking ADS in May for an estimated retail price of \$3995.

—Steven Noble



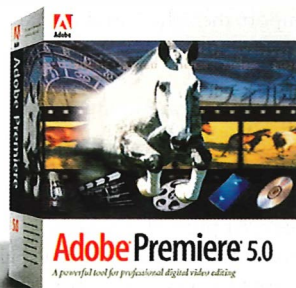
VIDEO EDITING

Adobe eyes professional video with Premiere 5.0

Adobe Systems Australia (1800 065 628) expects to release version 5.0 of Premiere this May, with an RRP of \$1295 and an upgrade price of \$349.

Version 5.0 of Premiere is smoothly integrated into Adobe's product line, according to the company, sharing the same menus, tabbed palettes and keyboard shortcuts as programs such as Illustrator and Photoshop. The upgraded video-editing program also delivers a streamlined interface, studio-quality audio tools, long-format editing tools, enhanced edit-decision list support, and other high-end production features, according to Adobe.

Adobe Premiere 5.0 for



Version 5.0 of Premiere, which Adobe Systems Australia expects to ship in May.

Macintosh requires a PowerPC-based system, preferably with multiple processors; Mac OS 7.5.5 or later; at least 16MB of application RAM, with 48MB being recommended; 30MB of hard-disk space for installation; and a CD-ROM drive.

— Steven Noble

INTERNET

Power protection

American Power Conversion (APC), a manufacturer of power-protection equipment, has established a direct link on Harris Technology's web site <www.ht.com.au>.

The move provides APC with an additional outlet for its new generation of uninterruptible power supplies (UPS) and power-protection devices which it released earlier this year.

Features of the new range include user-replaceable batteries, a communications-interface port for automatic shutdown, full-time noise filtration, and visible and audible alarm signals to alert the user when connected

equipment is running on battery power.

APC says that recent studies show a typical computing site can be hit by "power events" up to 120 times per month. Although 87 percent of power disturbances are not recognisable to the human eye, APC says that symptoms can include keyboard or mouse lock-ups, data loss, or problems with critical peripherals such as point-of-sale devices, laser printers and scanners.

APC can be reached on 1800 652 725, fax 02 9955 2844 and <www.apcc.com/australia>.

— Tami Dower



APC's power protection devices provide insurance for data and hardware.

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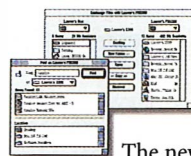
AppleScript record and playback makes short work of everyday operations. Synchronize files on multiple computers with one-click ease.



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3 Faster File Transfers



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MISCELLANY

New third-party products via Apple



Psion Dacom's Gold Card fax modem takes the place of Apple's PCMCIA 33.6 Modem and TDK's Global Class Modem on Apple Computer Australia's price list.

NEWS BRIEFS

Apple has released version 2.5 of ColorSync, which is available for download free of charge at <www.apple.com/coloursync>. The new version of **Apple's colour-management system** features AppleScript support, a monitor-calibration framework that lets third-party developers have their own software recognised by the Mac OS Monitors & Sound control panel, and support for additional colour profiles. Apple has also announced its intention to develop ColorSync for Windows, while Adobe has confirmed its broader support of ColorSync for flagship products.

Emerage has announced iSite 2.0, which is home to the **Australian Multimedia Industry Directory**, and can be found at <www.isite.com.au>. Any Australian multimedia producer can take a free listing at this site; silver and gold listings are also available for a fee.

In April, the third-party products division of Apple Computer Australia (1800 025 355) began shipping new products from Magma, Psion Dacom and iRez.

New from Magma is a range of external expansion boxes that provide additional PCI slots for certain Macintosh systems. A seven-slot model for desktop PCI-based Macs is \$3305 ex-tax, and a 13-slot version lists for \$3945. A seven-slot model for the PowerBooks 3400 and G3 lists for \$3522. All three models are based on a 50cm steel rack-mounted enclosure, and consist of a board set, cable and power supply. All can also house up to three 3.5-inch SCSI devices, one of which can be externally accessed, according to Apple.

Buyers should expect to wait seven to ten days for delivery as Magma stock will not be kept

in this country, Apple says. The company is also willing to import the other products that are listed at <www.magma.com>.

Apple Computer Australia has also begun shipping Psion Dacom's \$399 RRP 56Kbps Gold Card fax modem, removing the Apple PCMCIA 33.6 Modem and the TDK Global Class Modem from its price list.

The modem is Newton compatible, approved for use in 22 countries including Australia, and GSM upgradable, according to Apple, which is selling GSM kits for the Nokia 2110e, 8110, 3810 and 3110 and the Philips 747 for \$329 RRP.

This modem uses K56Flex technology, according to Apple, and will be upgradable to the new V.90 standard. With its 2MB of flash memory, the modem can store the K56Flex

and V.90 specs simultaneously, the company says, auto-switching to the correct setting depending on the signal received, and stepping down to 33.6Kbps when necessary.

This modem is not packaged with any fax software, but Apple says it works with Apple Serial Modem Fax Software, which is on the Mac OS 8 and 8.1 CDs.

New from iREZ is the Capture, a \$219 RRP full-motion analogue capture card that offers PowerBook G3 and 3400 owners full-screen, 25-frames-per-second video preview from any composite or S-video source, according to Apple. The card's ZoomedVideo technology bypasses the system bus, according to the company, delivering data at rates up to 27MB per second while leaving the processor free for other tasks.

— Steven Noble

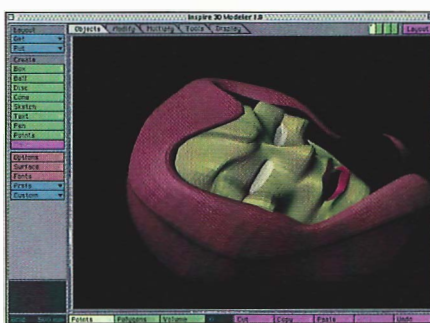
3D MODELLING, RENDERING & ANIMATION

NewTek goes for mid-range users

NewTek—maker of the \$2995 RRP LightWave 3D, a high-end 3D modelling, rendering and animation program—has released the mid-range Inspire 3D, a \$799 RRP program with the same code-base as LightWave.

NewTek says it developed Inspire for graphic artists, web designers and multimedia developers who need the power of LightWave's rendering engine, but not all its options and tools. Inspire's panel-based interface lets the user access most functions within two mouse-clicks, according to NewTek.

Key features of Inspire includes its support for the free-form deformation of objects based on a skeletal system; its ray-tracing system for creating shadows, reflections and



Inspire 3D ships with a variety of pre-modelled objects, including this crone mask.

refractions; its MetaNURBS modelling tool; and its cel-rendering technology for creating graphics that look like they're hand-drawn. NewTek also says that Inspire can import Illustrator and Photoshop files, and export to LightWave.

NewTek products are distributed in Australia by New Magic, which can be reached on 03 9532 9566, fax 03 9532 8556, and <www.newmagic.com.au>.

— Steven Noble

MUSIC

A Marshall in your Mac

Macintosh users have the opportunity to make their electronic compositions sound like Motorhead or Cream with the release of Red Valve-It VST, by Steinberg Spectral Design.

Red Valve-It VST models a classic valve-based guitar amplifier and delivers a rich and natural sound, according to Steinberg.

The plug-in is accessible from within sequencer environments that comply with Digidesign's TDM standard <www.digidesign.com>.

The \$349 RRP Red Valve-It VST is distributed in Australia by Music Technology, which can be reached on 02 9369 4990 and fax 02 9387 8676.

— Steven Noble



Typical for Steinberg's products, the Red Valve-It interface looks like the analogue hardware that it emulates.

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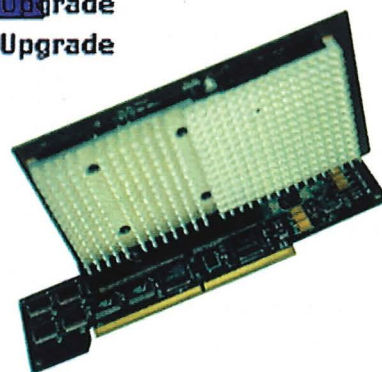
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647	8100 with Sonnet G3 Upgrade
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408	6100 with Sonnet 200Mhz 604e Upgrade
408	PM9600/200
204	Max 3000/160
202	PM7600/120
138	8100
115	ac 7100
100	D/60 (reference system)

Tests results from SysInfo. Results depend on exact configuration.



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One of the 1000-plus images from Thygeson's *Apple T-Shirts*.

NEWS BRIEFS

Symantec has announced plans to ship its **next-generation antivirus package** early this winter. The package formerly known as Symantec AntiVirus for Macintosh—or SAM—will be rechristened Norton AntiVirus for Macintosh (NAV) in the new release, version 5.0.

Symantec promises that NAV's virus-definition upgrades will be free for the life of the product. Furthermore, Symantec says that its software will be able to **update itself automatically over the internet**, guaranteeing that you always have the latest version of the virus descriptions. These two features alone set NAV apart from its competition.

Symantec's upgrade reportedly will also contain cleverer ways of detecting new macro viruses, though specifics weren't yet available as we went to press. And unlike its predecessor, SAM 4.5, NAV will be able to repair infected files without launching the main application; the current version of Virex includes a similar feature.

MISCELLANY

Celebrating Apple's history in T-Shirts

Macintosh users may be a tight-knit group, but not as tightly knit as the many T-shirts worn by Apple employees during the company's tumultuous 20-year history. Two years ago, software test engineer Gordon Thygeson began collecting photographs of these mementos, and the result is *Apple T-Shirts: A Yearbook of History at Apple Computer*, a 204-page coffee-table book featuring photos of more than 1000 T-shirts given to company employees.

The T-shirts range from staid renditions of the Apple logo to more-outrageous sentiments. One reveals the true meaning of IBM: "I Build Macs." Another, parodying an infamous Mac error message, reads, "Sorry, the AppleSoft engineer 'unknown' has unexpectedly quit."

Thygeson sells the book internationally for \$US39.95 through <www.appletshirts.com>. Add \$US8.95 for shipping and handling to Pacific Rim nations such as Australia.

— Stephen Beale

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Ricoh announces RDC-300Z



The RDC-300Z: user-friendly enough for first time buyers, yet powerful enough for advanced digital photographers, according to Ricoh.

Ricoh Australia has announced the newest addition to its family of digital cameras, the RDC-300Z.

The digital camera features a 45–135mm zoom lens and a 350,000 pixel charge-coupled device (CCD). With its macro-focus technology it can capture images from as close as 1cm from the subject, Ricoh says.

Other features include a built-in 1.8-inch 640-by-480 24-bit colour liquid-crystal display and

a 2MB removable SmartMedia Card which can store up to 49 images in economy mode and up to 12 in fine mode.

The RDC-300Z comes with Ricoh's PhotoStudio Lite, which lets users manage and manipulate images on Mac OS and Windows systems.

The Ricoh RDC-300Z is priced around \$1000 and the company can be reached on 03 9888 7722, fax 03 9888 7744.

— Tami Dower

PRESENTATION TECHNOLOGY

Desktop film recorder "sharpest"

Polaroid has released a film recorder which it says creates the sharpest 35mm transparencies of any desktop model.

According to the company, the \$9967 RRP ProPalette 7000 is suited to high-volume quick-turnaround environments such as health-care facilities, research and scientific organisations, educational institutions, government agencies and photo labs.

The ProPalette 7000 connects to a Mac's SCSI port and ships with Polaroid Palette for Macintosh software. It's the only desktop film recorder that

is based on a high-resolution 17.5cm CRT, according to Polaroid, which allows it to



The ProPalette 7000, which Polaroid says creates the sharpest transparencies of any desktop model.

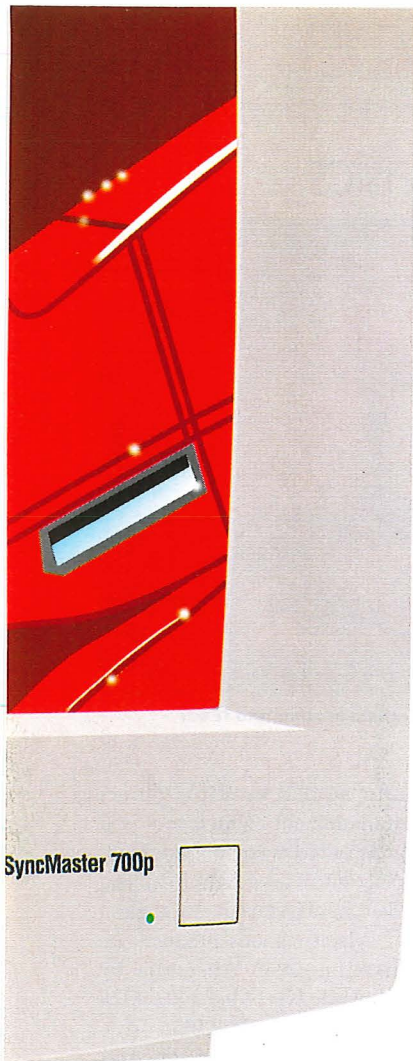
record slides at a colour depth of 36 bits and at a native resolution of 2732 by 4096 lines.

The recorder includes a standard 35mm camera back, Polaroid says, and photographic technologies such as automatic exposure, colour-balance control and dynamic focus circuitry.

The camera also includes a 20-character-by-two-line LCD front-panel display for system data.

Polaroid can be reached on 02 9950 7000 and fax 02 9950 7051.

— Steven Noble



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DESIGN & GRAPHICS

Painter Classic gets back to basics

Attempting to broaden and consolidate the Painter family of products, MetaCreations has released a \$199 streamlined version of Painter aimed at intermediate users, as well as a new, \$599, renamed version of its 3D painting program, Detailer.

With Painter Classic, the company has focussed on what defined the original Painter: the program's ability to simulate traditional media. Classic includes image hoses, the seamless tiling of images, and an extensive library of brushes, but much of Painter's complexity has been stripped away. You don't see Painter's confusing floaters, nor can you create brand-new brushes, although existing ones are still customisable via sliders.

Classic's simpler interface doesn't have any hidden palettes. You can personalise your workspace by tearing off and creating custom palettes.

Detailer has been improved and rechristened Painter 3D, to



Painter Classic gives you more natural-media brushes and fewer palettes.

strengthen the brand and to better reflect the program's purpose. It includes such Painter 5 features as dynamic floaters, customisable palettes, and plug-in brushes. New capabilities include map sharing, for applying one texture map to multiple 3D objects; hierarchies, which let you paint just selected parts

of a model; multiple-object management, which lets you group objects for texture mapping; and views, which let you view an object from any angle.

MetaCreations products are distributed in Australia by Scholastic New Media (02 4328 3555, fax 02 4328 2205).

—Cathy Abes

NEWS BRIEFS

Australian developer Active Concepts has released **Funnel Web Professional**.

Funnel Web Pro can handle up to 20 million hits per log, Active Concepts says. The program can identify the origin of each client, the last site that client visited, and the keywords and search engines used to locate the site it is monitoring. Funnel Web Pro can also **monitor staff web usage**, Active Concepts says. It's new virtual engine can generate multi-domain reports in a single pass based on each host domain or individual log file.

The current release is available for the Mac OS and Active Concepts says it is working on **a version for Rhapsody**. The product retails for \$599 and at writing owners of Funnel Web can update to the Professional version for \$149. Active Concepts can be reached on 03 9344 0933, fax 03 9347 9473 and <www.activeconcepts.com>.

SCANNERS

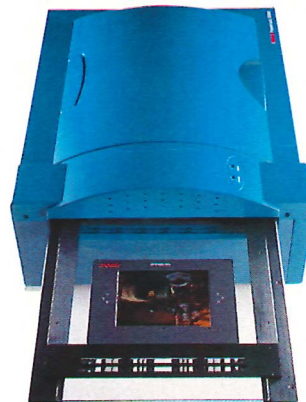
Umax's PowerLook 3000

Umax has released a new flatbed scanner, the PowerLook 3000, along with version 4.0 of its scanner driver, MagicScan.

Mike Owen, general manager of Umax distributor Computer Enterprises of Australia, says the PowerLook 3000 "finally brings drum-scan quality to the desktop".

The PowerLook 3000 features dual-lens technology, with an optical resolution of 3048 by 1220dpi on the first lens and 3048 by 3048dpi on the second. Using software interpolation, this can be boosted to 12,192 by 12,192dpi, CEA says.

Other technological enhancements in the PowerLook 3000 include auto-focus, a re-sampling algorithm to correct jagged edges, a bit-enhancement technology to produce smooth tonal curves, and an optimised lighting system to retain brightness in



Umax's PowerLook 3000 scanner delivers drum-scan quality with the convenience of a flatbed, according to the company.

each image.

The PowerLook 3000 is bundled with MagicScan 4.0, Binuscan PhotoPerfect Master and Live Picture 2.6, and retails for \$14,990.

The recently updated MagicScan 4.0 lets users rotate images at any angle, and to see full-

screen previews of each image, including any adjustments and corrections that have been made.

It also features three new scanning options: Manual, which lets users make their own adjustments to the image before it is scanned; MagicMatch, which gives users the ability to create colour-separated images that have been calibrated with their system; and Auto Correction/Binuscan IPM, which completes all adjustments and colour corrections automatically. "The integrated Binuscan option is a bonus for users who prefer to work entirely from within one program like Photoshop", says product manager for Binuscan software, Anna Jude.

Umax products are distributed in Australia by Computer Enterprises (02 9807 5222, fax 02 9807 5333).

—Tami Dower

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*To qualify for the 30 day money back guarantee, goods must be returned to Distributor's Depot within 30 days of purchase, be in new condition, and be complete with all items including cables, software, manuals, etc, and must have completed less than 1000 prints. A charge will be made for consumables.

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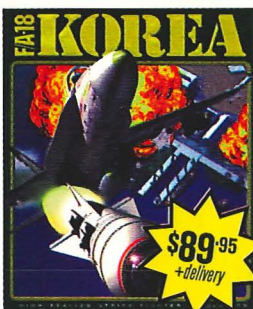
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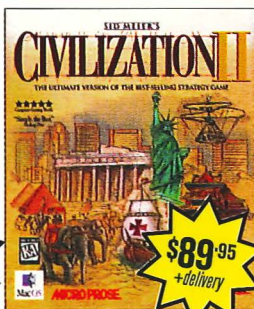


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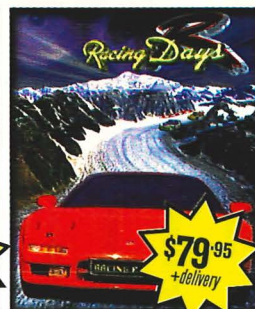
Civilisation 2

Strategy. The best selling game on the Macintosh.
CD-ROM. 68030 or PowerMac.



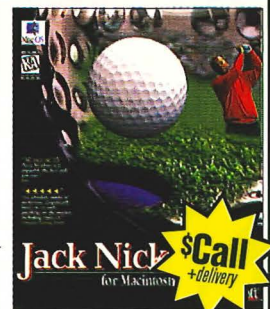
MDK

A next-generation 3D shooter with great levels & graphics.
CD-ROM. PowerMac Only.



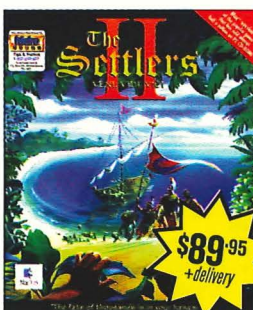
Racing Days R

New car racing title featuring Quicktime VR technology.
CD-ROM. PowerMac Only.



Jack Nicklaus 4

Hi-res golf sim with 5 courses (90 holes) and course editor.
CD-ROM. PowerMac Only.



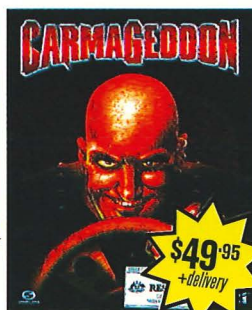
The Settlers II

Well-reviewed strategy game set in the Ancient World.
CD-ROM. 030/40 or PowerMac.



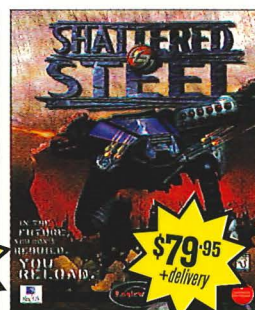
Shadow Warrior

3D Ninja Shooter from the makers of Duke Nukem.
CD-ROM. PowerMac Only.



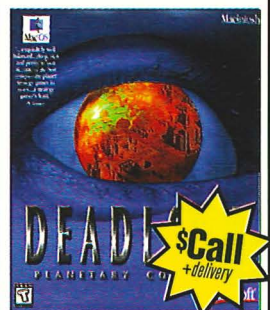
Carmageddon

Ultraviolet racing game with 3Dfx support. Rated MA15+
CD-ROM. PowerMac Only.



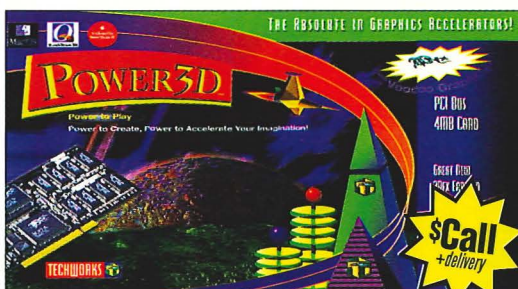
Shattered Steel

3D Networkable Mech Combat. Better than Mechwarrior!
CD-ROM. PowerMac Only.



Deadlock

Sci-Fi Strategy. Build cities & conquer enemies. Networkable.
CD-ROM. 68040 or PowerMac.



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QuickClicks

Journeyman Project 3: Legacy of Time

RICH GAME HAMPERED BY AVERAGE GRAPHICS

In Journeyman Project 3 you get the opportunity to explore the lost civilisations of Atlantis, El Dorado and Shangri La.

There is extraordinary depth in the adventures and in the puzzles that must be solved in each time zone. Further, the music is brilliant, creating the perfect ambience for each of these destinations.

The only fault with JP3 is its graphics, which are, in places, too blurry and grainy. It's as if somebody enlarged the whole

thing twice as much as they were supposed to. After contacting Presto Studios, it turns out this is so there's not unrealistic hardware requirements for the game. Users can try turning on line-skipping to make the graphics look like they're of a higher quality.

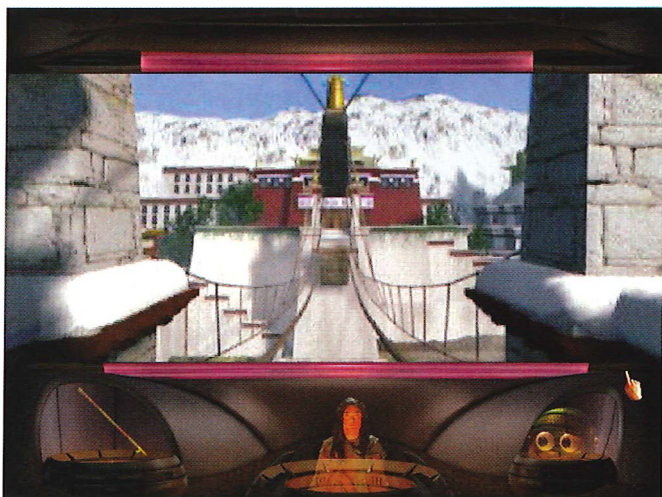
Rather than providing great stand-still graphics, JP3 gives you the ability to rotate your point of view to any angle. You do lose a bit of the "immersion factor" that is so important in adventure games, but when

you're actually moving you don't notice the blurriness.

Unlike with the previous Projects, Legacy of Time lets you interact with people in the past. Using a newly developed "chameleon" suit, you can assume the form of locals and interact with other members of the populace. The acting throughout is wonderful, and the people within each domain react differently depending on the guise you've taken:

There's also the artificial intelligence Arthur, who keeps you company and amuses you, giving you hints and the occasional history lesson.

To play JP3 it is recommended you have at least an 80MHz Power Mac with 10MB of free RAM, 70MB of free hard-disk space, a display capable of thousands of colours, and a 4x CD-ROM drive.



The contrast between the blurriness of certain images and the clarity of others in the Journeyman Project 3 is apparent in this screen shot.

RATING KEY

Outstanding	★★★★
Very Good	★★★★
Good	★★★
Flawed	★★
Unacceptable	★
Dangerous	☹

Short and sharp, QuickClicks are brief reviews of the latest products, evaluated by experienced users. Detailed product reviews are on page 59.

Type:	Game
Rating:	★★★★
RRP:	\$89.95
Distributor:	Dataflow
Telephone:	02 9417 9700
Facsimile:	02 9417 9797
Reviewer:	James Allworth

Entable

UNEVEN TABLE TOOL FOR QUARKXPRESS

QuarkXPress's table-creation tools are not powerful, but attempting to fill this gap is Tableworks' Entable 1.02.

Entable is a stand-alone application rather than an XTension; you create table files that are linked to boxes within XPress, and an XTension added to XPress's Tools palette makes switching between the two programs nearly transparent. In contrast, the Tableworks XTension—Entable's predecessor and closest competitor—has you create tables within XPress, using grids of text and picture boxes. Unhitched from XPress, Entable can offer a more versatile feature set that lets you control the appearance of cells and text. Even better, the files Entable generates are smaller and print more quickly than similar tables created with the

Player	Position	Age	Height	Weight	Bats	Throws
Edo	AL	21	5'10"	196	R	R
Ortiz	OF	25	6'1"	210	L	L
Plafie	RF	24	6'2"	181	R	R
Scott	OF	26	6'3"	166	R	R
Smith	OF	22	5'11"	223	R	R
Adair	IF	17	6'5"	187	R	L
Williams	IF	32	6'4"	206	L	L
Smith	IF	35	6'5"	199	R	R
Lawless	OF	22	5'9"	170	R	R
Smith	IF	26	5'11"	187	R	R
Williams	IF	23	6'5"	209	R	L
Williams	IF	23	6'5"	214	R	R
Trapp	OF	20	6'4"	199	R	L
Trapp	OF	21	5'11"	170	L	L
Williams	IF	35	6'5"	206	R	R

Entable's interface mimics QuarkXPress's, from the appearance of the document window to the Tools and Layout palettes.

Tableworks XTension.

To create a table box with Entable, you select the table-creation tool and click and drag a rectangle. You can then import a previously created table, import all or part of the currently active table, or generate a new table from a text file or from selected XPress text. When you save a table that's been linked to an

page tables, slant the cells in rows and columns, flow text horizontally or vertically, embed XPress text boxes and picture boxes within tables, and create 3D cells.

But Entable has several idiosyncrasies, from the benign (longer imported colour names are truncated) to the unacceptable (you can't double-click on a word to select it). One could

XPress document, that document is updated automatically.

Entable has an XPress-like interface, is compatible with some of XPress's most powerful features and has some powerful features of its own. It lets you create multi-

forgive Entable its quirks if it worked flawlessly with XPress; however, switching between the two programs produces screen-redraw problems in XPress, occasionally followed by system crashes.

Entable is a feature-packed utility that fills a gaping hole in QuarkXPress. Although the 1.02 update solves some of the stability problems, you might want to wait until the remaining quirks are ironed out before using this otherwise promising newcomer.

Type:	XTension
Rating:	1/2
RRP:	\$697
Distributor:	XPressions
Telephone:	02 9922 3166
Facsimile:	02 9922 3305
Reviewer:	John Cruise

YDKJ Movies & TV

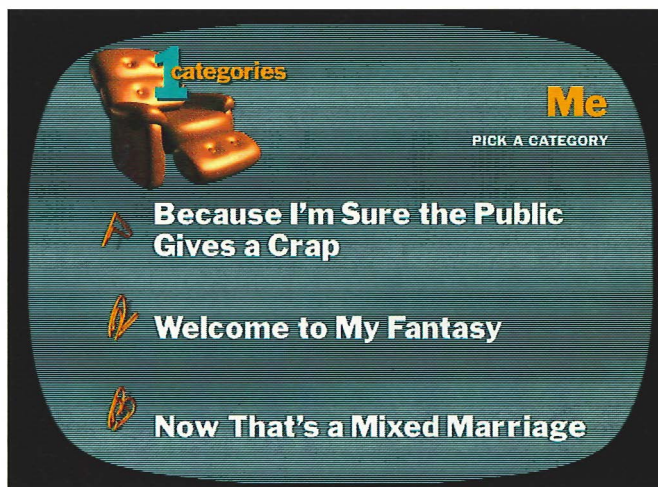
YOU DON'T KNOW JACK BUNDLE DREDGES US-ORIENTATED TV AND MOVIE TRIVIA

At what point does the trivia craze turn into overkill? Hard on the heels of the recent release of You Don't Know Jack HUGE XXXL as three games in one box, this two-games-in-the-same-shrinkwrap job completes the picture. (Memo to Jack-developers Jellovision and Berkeley Systems—enough with the trivia already!)

The interface is still a joy to behold. Both titles install simply, run beautifully, and never did anything remotely naughty on my machine. As professional and clean as ever.

In my last review of Jack, I wondered if society had yet sunk to the level where computer games take pride of place at parties. This question is still relevant, but this double bill has some other problems.

Movies is fine—after all, Hollywood's product is the world's first universal culture. There are some questions that I have no idea about—who, for



Couch-potato meets mouse-potato in You Don't Know Jack TV.

instance, is Billy Barty? Anyone? For \$1000?—but most of it's rather familiar. They get extra points for making fun of Sly Stallone's worst performance (now that's saying something) in *Over The Top*.

Television, however, is still parochial. Do you know what Jeannie's (as in genie and dumb astronaut) dog's name is? Do you

have a clue about the American version of *The Price Is Right*? Could you care about who played the uncle in *Family Ties*?

Maybe I don't watch enough TV (and as far as the TV industry is concerned, no-one watches enough TV), but I had real trouble getting a question right on this one. In three runs through, my highest score

was, ahem, \$5000.

Of course, if you're the type of person who subscribes to cable in order to watch *The Honey-mooners* and *Nightstalker*, you might love this game. It'll confirm the depth of your genius. But most people in this country will, I predict, be stumped.

And besides—unless all your friends are tubeheads—do you really want to play with yourself? (Both games have obsessive masturbation jokes to jibe the solo player).

Same concept, same interface, much harder questions. And Keanu Reeves is a what?

Type:	Entertainment
Rating:	
RRP:	\$69.95
Distributor:	Dataflow
Telephone:	02 9417 9700
Facsimile:	02 9417 9797
Reviewer:	Stephen Dunne

Disney's Hades Challenge

GRUMPY GODS FROM ANCIENT GREECE

The Minotaur is in town and he is munching people for lunch. He's hit the restaurant for main course and is planning a town meeting to cover dessert.

We must save the people of Ancient Greece by trapping the Minotaur in an elaborately constructed labyrinth. The plan seems reasonable, but at each corner we hit a dead end.

We travel to Troy to collect more stones and wood for the maze and win people over with gifts. In the back of our mind is always the Minotaur. We are told that he loves people, "especially with salt and pepper".

This attack of the Minotaur is one of four challenges in Disney's Hades Challenge. It looks like a cartoon, and the children are sure it is one too, yet they are thinking and making decisions while they play, searching in all directions and trying new options.




Zeus and Poseidon adopting threatening postures in Hades Challenge.

Hades Challenge will appeal to some children much more than others. It will be too aggressive for some with its small amount of mild animated violence. The characters aren't sweet friendly creatures, but angry gods with bad manners. At one stage we help Helen of

Troy and travel across the River Styx to battle Cyclops and the hundred-headed Typhon. We try to appease a king who calls our kind gift "trash". This program is best left to children over nine years of age who aren't too sensitive.

Children collect facts as they

play, as they need to answer a quick quiz at the end of each challenge before they make it to the final "diabolical destruction game". They may learn something about Greek mythology, but most will probably forget the clues once the moment has past. They do, however, need to think quickly, solve a range of puzzles and work out what to do next. It's a game that may incidentally exercise a few thinking skills as the children play. 

Type:	Children's game
Rating:	
RRP:	\$69.95
Distributor:	Buena Vista Home Entertainment
Telephone:	03 9823 7800
Facsimile:	03 9826 0411
Reviewer:	Anne Glover

My Amazing Human Body

DK'S BODY-GUIDE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

Bone up on your physiology with Seemore Skinless, in My Amazing Human Body. He's a skeleton with loads of personality as well as green glasses and a red polka-dot bow tie. As Seemore whizzes around the screen, children from five to eight

years can learn how their bodies work and how to care for them.

First we take a quiz to earn human body parts. What do your kidneys do? How many bones do you have in each foot? If we don't know the answers, a click takes us to the right page


in the encyclopedia.

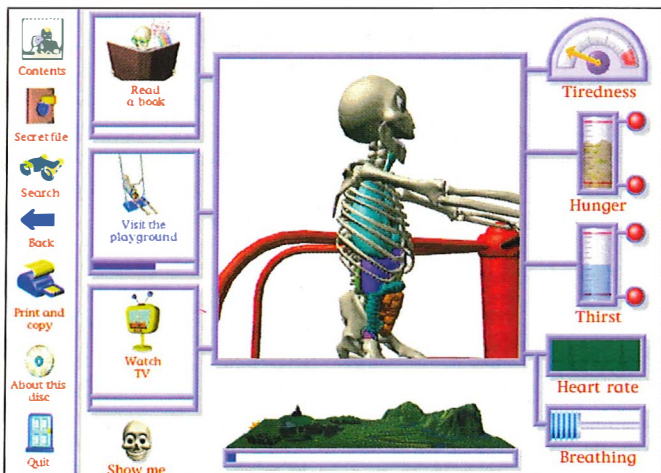
Children can measure, poke and prod. They can fill the bladder with urine and view an x-ray of the brain. Describing this program makes it sound rather gross, but many kids like that kind of thing. Make pictures from body parts, or build a body before a bomb explodes, scattering bits in all directions. Gross it may be, but it is also a varied and entertaining way for children to learn about their bodies, as long as they don't find the skeleton too strange.

To understand more than the individual pieces, to see how the human body operates as a unit, children take over Seemore's day. They choose activities for him; maybe flying a kite, followed by a trip to the playground. If they forget to feed him, or don't remember to give him the occasional drink, alarm bells start ringing. This program

may help children set off their own alarm bells if they don't care for their own body.

Dorling Kindersley also produces the superb Ultimate Human Body 2.0 for older children. My Amazing Human Body has a section explaining in simple text (no diagrams) how boys and girls change as they grow up, and a screen showing a baby before it is born. There is no coverage of reproduction here.

My Amazing Human Body provides suitable coverage for a younger audience, one that prefers to get their hands dirty. 



We can take Seemore Skinless to the park or plonk him by the television, and watch the effect on his energy levels, appetite, thirst, heart rate and breathing, in My Amazing Human Body.

Type:	Education
Rating:	
RRP:	\$75
Distributor:	Roadshow Interactive
Telephone:	02 9552 8700
Facsimile:	02 9660 8436
Reviewer:	Anne Glover

F/A-18 Korea

THE BENCHMARK FOR MAC FLIGHT SIMS

F/A-18 Korea, a standalone product based on F/A-18 Hornet 3.0, is Graphic Simulations Corporation's latest offering.

The story is the same as with previous versions: Hostilities have broken out on the 38th Parallel, and in your multi-role fighter-bomber you are expected to do your bit.

However, there's a few crucial differences in the gameplay. For a start, your wing men are now actually useful and your adversaries are much more challenging. Your weapons and cockpit are truer to the real thing. And network performance is improved, with a play-over-the-internet option in the works.

Also, Korea now has a mission editor with which you can add to the present scenarios. It's easy to use, and much better than the one in A-10 Cuba for example. Full marks to GSC for this feature.



This is not a screen shot of a QuickTime movie you're looking at. It's F/A-18 Korea in play at better than 20 frames per second, running on a Power Mac equipped with a TechWorks Power3D accelerator card.

Further, the game now supports 3Dfx-based graphics accelerator cards, such as TechWorks' Power3D (see below). If you have such a card installed you get full-screen workstation-quality graphics at the highest possible frame rates. The level of

detail is stunning. Atmospheric effects like glare from the sun enhance the game even further. Stalking your prey 100 feet over a wispy layer of cloud is a rush. Firing a missile and watching it trail smoke across the sky is exhilarating.

The graphics have also been improved over Hornet 3.0 for those without accelerator cards.

The game comes on CD, and requires a Power Mac running at 80MHz or faster. The manual is written by an F/A-18 jockey, and is comprehensive and well laid out. However, I found myself using the online training module instead.

There are still a couple of bugs in this otherwise polished product, and it has a steep learning curve, but for the moment F/A-18 Korea is the benchmark for Macintosh flight simulators. ☹

Type:	Flight simulator
Rating:	★★★★½
RRP:	\$89.95
Distributor:	Try & Byte
Telephone:	02 9906 5227
Facsimile:	02 9906 5605
Reviewer:	Frank O'Connor

Power3D

3D-ACCELERATION CARD FOR GAMES

Just a year ago, hardware-based 3D acceleration promised to be the Next Big Thing for Mac gamers, and ATI delivered with its Xclaim VR card.

For gamers, the latest and greatest PCI-based solution is TechWorks' Power3D acceleration card. But just for gamers. Unlike the ATI card, the Power3D's sole purpose is to accelerate the sort of 3D graphics used in games—2D graphics continue to be delivered by your Mac's on-board video. Because the Power3D can't display 2D and 3D video concurrently, it's not intended for use with design applications.

The Power3D's external pass-through cable routes the Mac's video output through the Power3D card. When an application supporting the Power3D

launches, 2D video bows out and the Power3D's 3Dfx Voodoo Graphics chip set—the *de facto* standard for PC-game acceleration—takes over.

This bodes well for Mac entertainment enthusiasts: Nearly every PC game that supports hardware-based 3D acceleration now comes in a 3Dfx-compatible version; those games ported to the Mac will most likely sport 3Dfx versions as well. Conversely, not all of these games will be compatible with the 3D Rave protocol used by ATI and Apple—Bungie's Myth, for example, supports only 3Dfx-accelerated graphics.

The result of the Power3D's acceleration is nothing short of spectacular. Myth, Quake, and MechWarrior 2 are drop-dead gorgeous when played with the Power3D installed. Previously

pixelated textures are smoothed, water undulates, smoke and haze take on transparency, and shadows become far more realistic. What's more, the card delivers all this at high frame rates. On a 180MHz 604e-based system, the Power3D running the 3Dfx version of Quake attained 28.2 frames per second at full-screen, 640-by-480-pixel resolution, compared to 9.7fps produced by the ATI Xclaim VR running the 3D Rave version of the game.

The Power3D comes bundled with full versions of Bungie's Weekend Warrior, Activision's MechWarrior 2, and VR Sports' VR Soccer; episode 1 of Quake is also included. The only thing missing from the Power3D box is the 32MB of RAM you're going to need.

Alas, the Power3D isn't

compatible with many non-multisync monitors. The card has a locked, 60MHz refresh rate, and if your fixed-rate monitor can't adjust to this rate, you're out of luck. TechWorks claims to be working on this problem.

Although the Power3D is a one-trick pony, the trick it performs—3D acceleration for games—is done extremely well. If you're serious about 3D gaming on the Mac, this is the card to have. ☹

Type:	Accelerator
Rating:	★★★★
RRP:	\$340
Distributor:	Status Graph
Telephone:	02 9552 1388
Facsimile:	02 9552 1109
Reviewer:	Christopher Breen

Surf Express

THE SLOWER YOU SURF, THE BETTER THE ACCELERATION

One of the most common complaints about the internet is the speed at which web pages download. The new Surf Express 1.0, from Connectix, tries to improve your surfing experience by helping your web browser display frequently visited pages faster.

The PowerPC-only Surf Express works by replacing the

caching mechanism built into all web browsers with a more efficient system. Instead of storing dozens or hundreds of small cache files in a folder on your hard disk, Surf Express saves the text and graphics of the web pages you visit in a database. The next time you visit those sites, the program retrieves from the database the page elements

that haven't changed since your last visit. Therefore, the program doesn't help you get to web sites any faster; it simply speeds up the display of sites you've already seen.

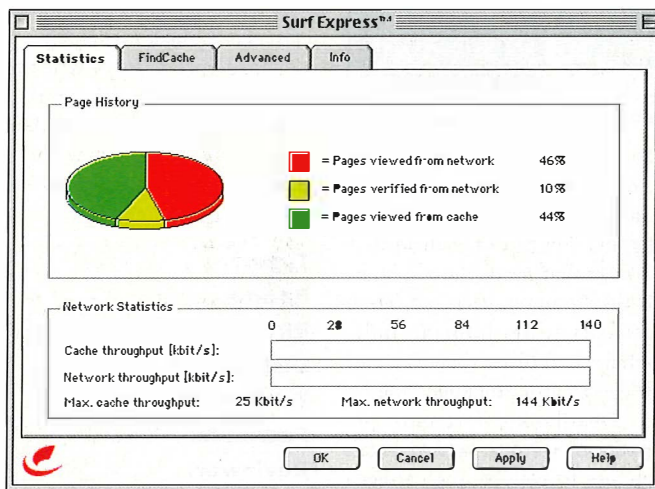
In testing I found that the slower the connection, the more noticeable the acceleration. For example, a graphics-heavy page took 90 seconds to load with a 33.6Kbps modem and only seven seconds to reload from Surf Express's cache. With a dual-channel ISDN line, the page loaded in just 41 seconds but still took about seven seconds to reload from Surf Express. Without Surf Express, Navigator's cache required 13 seconds to reload the same page. That's significant acceleration, but it's hardly the "up to 36 times faster" touted by Connectix.

You can search Surf Express's cache for words or phrases and narrow your search by date. Although this is a big improvement over standard browser caches, which aren't

searchable, the FindCache feature still needs work: searches are often slow, even on a fast Power Mac, and some words never seem to make it into the cache. Another feature is designed to fetch commonly viewed pages before you request them, increasing the chances that they'll be retrieved from the cache rather than loaded again from the web. Enabling this SmartFetch feature seems to have little effect, however.

Surf Express makes the wait for web pages less painful for modem users, especially for frequently visited sites, but if you have a high-speed connection to the internet this program isn't for you.

Type:	Internet utility
Rating:	★★★
RRP:	\$55
Distributor:	Firmware
Telephone:	02 4721 7211
Facsimile:	02 4721 7215
Reviewer:	Tom Negrino



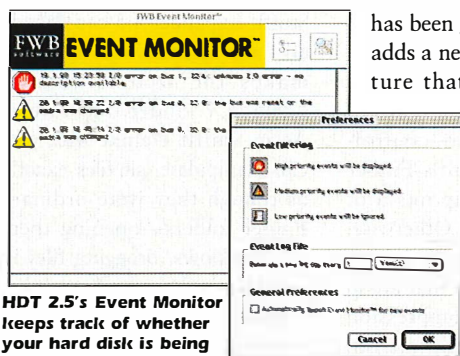
Surf Express 1.0's pie chart shows you how much you've been accessing the local cache instead of loading new pages from the network.

Hard Disk Toolkit 2.5

FORMATTER GETS A SMOOTHER LOOK

Many Mac users have no idea about drivers—the invisible software that lets their operating system talk to their hard disks and removables. FWB's Hard Disk Toolkit 2.5 offers revised drivers, and more.

At first glance, HDT 2.5 appears almost identical to HDT 2.0, but it's clear that the upgrade smooths many of the rough spots in 2.0's user interface. HDT 2.5 comes on a single, bootable CD-ROM, which also sports a "crisis tool" that lets you attempt to make software-related repairs on your hard disk's driver and partition map. HDT also offers other, less immediately visible areas of improvement, including a PowerPC-native driver for IDE disks and the ability to easily create custom partition types,



HDT 2.5's Event Monitor keeps track of whether your hard disk is being naughty or nice.

such as for DOS (in instances where removable media are shared across platforms), or for PowerPC versions of Linux.

Although ease of use is important when setting up a disk, a driver should also be reliable and get the highest performance possible out of the drive—in that order. HDT's overall reliability track record

has been good, and version 2.5 adds a new Event Monitor feature that alerts you if your disk's hardware looks as if it's about to go south. If a disk begins to encounter read or write errors, or something similarly untoward, HDT 2.5's new driver can alert

you that something is amiss.

Despite HDT 2.5's overall polish, the package still has flaws. It doesn't support SCSI Disk Mode for PowerBooks with IDE drives (which includes most recent models), and the HDT 2.5 driver for removable media is incompatible with the Mac OS Disk First Aid's Repair mode.

HDT's 2.5 upgrade is notable for its overall polish rather than for any single innovation. It does everything it used to do, only better, and has added useful features such as event monitoring. HDT 2.5 still has some rough spots, but the upgrade from HDT 2.0—which comes bundled with many non-Apple drives—is a no-brainer; upgrades from previous versions are similarly reasonable.

Type:	Disk utility
Rating:	★★★ 1/2
RRP:	\$265
Distributor:	Mitsui Computer
Telephone:	02 9935 2400
Facsimile:	02 9935 2500
Reviewer:	Stephan Somogyi

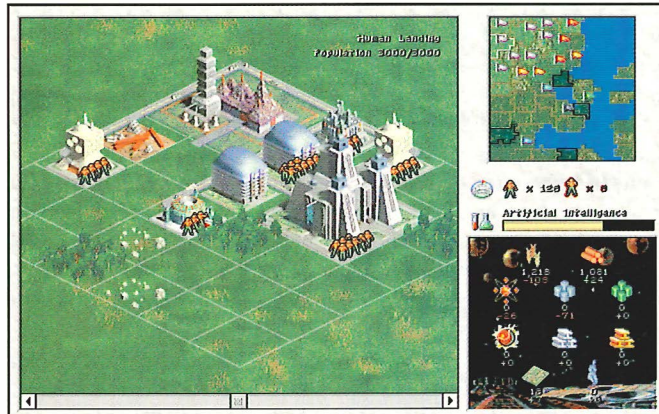
Deadlock

A SIM WITHOUT THE WORK

Deadlock is a fun sim that gives your brain a breather.

It's story unfolds in a crowded galaxy where space-faring species jockey to gain the upper hand, racing to colonise the few viable planets left. When a tense stand-off develops over fertile Gallius V, each species agrees to send a single team of colonists with a set amount of resources. The first species whose colony achieves a predetermined strength (or eliminates other colonies) wins the contest, and the planet.

As colony commander, you direct colonists in building and operating various enterprises: farms to grow food, mines to obtain natural resources, factories to process the resources (and build weapons), and laboratories to research new technologies. Along the way, you can also negotiate with other colony leaders and purchase items on the black market—but don't get caught doing the latter!



Deadlock's entertaining graphics painlessly deliver information.

Deadlock makes building and maintaining your colony easy and fun, with clear, colourful graphics and an approachable, informative interface. A status panel tells you how many resources you have and how fast you're amassing new wealth or burning your reserves—a joyous addition if you're used to digging through dialogue boxes to unearth essential information. It's also easy to manage your

colonists: each group of 100 citizens is represented by a tiny animated figure. If they're happy, you can drag them to a project that needs more labour. If they're upset, each red figure retreats to its housing unit, where it refuses to work and waves its arms in indignation.

Deadlock offers multiple paths to victory, and you can choose to play as one of seven species, each with its strengths

and weaknesses. You also decide whether you want to crush your enemies with laser fire or economically out-develop them. However, the array of choices never becomes a burden—a relief for gamers who enjoy the idea of running an empire but are intimidated by the sprawling complexity of mega-sims. Although networkable, Deadlock offers no “hot seat” capability for multiple players on a single computer.

Hard-core gamers will tire of Deadlock quickly, but if you'd rather play a game than work at keeping up with it, Deadlock promises many an evening's entertainment. **B+**

Type:	Game
Rating:	🌱🌱🌱
RRP:	\$89.95
Distributor:	Try & Byte
Telephone:	02 9906 5227
Facsimile:	02 9906 5605
Reviewer:	Cameron Crotty

StuffIt Deluxe 4.5.1

MINOR BUGS, MAJOR USEFULNESS

The problem of receiving files in bizarre formats is fading, thanks to StuffIt Deluxe. If a file's name ends in .sit, .cpt, .pkg, .zip, .arc, .gz, .tar, .Z, .lha, .uu, .hqx, .bin, or MIME, the compression/decompression program StuffIt Deluxe 4.5.1

can turn the file back into something useable faster than ever before.

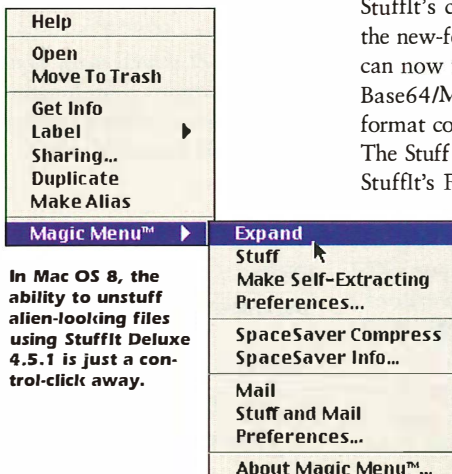
Version 4.5 is finally Mac OS 8 compatible, right down to its contextual menu—control-click on a document's Finder icon to see a pop-up menu of StuffIt's commands. Otherwise, the new-feature list is short: you can now unstuff files that are in Base64/MIME, a compression format common on the internet. The Stuff and Mail command in StuffIt's Finder menu isn't new, but it now works with Claris Emailer, AOL Australia, and Lotus cc:Mail.

Finally, StuffIt can now mount disk images, such as ShrinkWrap and Apple Disk Copy files.

But Aladdin's freeware Stuffit Expander 4.5 can decode all those formats, too. So what makes the Deluxe version “deluxe”? Finder integration. As in StuffIt Deluxe 4.0, you can manipulate .sit files exactly as though they were ordinary Finder folders—opening them into windows, dragging files in and out, and so on. Keystrokes (command-S and command-U, respectively) stuff and unstuff highlighted Finder icons, and only Deluxe offers the convenience of SpaceSaver, a control panel that automatically compresses files in the background.

Unfortunately, Deluxe 4.5's birth has been rough. The first release, according to <www.aladdinsys.com>, treated users to such phenomena as “a multi-coloured patch appearing in the menu bar” and system crashes.

Yet even the free 4.5.1 updater fails to nail several embarrassing bugs: SpaceSaver doesn't work with Mac OS 8.1; the MIME-unstuffing feature conks out if you highlight more than a handful of files; the command-U and command-S keystrokes sometimes stop working; and the glorious, sanity-saving “Delete archive after expanding” option doesn't work for some kinds of internet-downloaded files, such as MIME. At writing, Aladdin says it's working to fix these problems. **B+**



In Mac OS 8, the ability to unstuff alien-looking files using StuffIt Deluxe 4.5.1 is just a control-click away.

Type:	Compression
Rating:	🌱🌱🌱 1/2
RRP:	\$129
Distributor:	PICA Software
Telephone:	03 9388 9588
Facsimile:	03 9388 9788
Reviewer:	David Pogue

QX-Effects 3.0

SPECIAL EFFECTS FOR QUARKXPRESS

Extensis QX-Effects 3.0.1 is a plug-in for QuarkXPress 3.3 and 4.0 that lets you apply shadows, embossing, glows, and bevels to box frames and text.

QX-Effects makes it easy to create effects and gives you a lot of control over the process. When creating a shadow, for example, you determine its angle, colour, opacity, and blur. After you've experimented with the live preview, which shows you the effect of each setting, you click on the Finish button and wait for QX-Effects to generate the effect (a process that can take several minutes, even on a PowerPC 750-based Mac).

Once you have the effect you want, you can save all the settings for later use. Effects are



With QX-Effects 3.0.1, you can easily create wild effects such as this blue glow.


automatically added to the QX-Effects menu for easy access (you can also delete them from the menu). Once you create an effect, however, you can't change it. There's no undo command, but because QX-Effects retains the original text and picture boxes, that's a minor omission.


QX-Effects comes with eight predefined effects, but don't

apply them to text that overprints bitmapped images; you'll want to blend the effect into the image (which must be a TIFF file), something the canned effects can't do. If you don't blend the effect, the picture box that contains it ends up under the original text and on top of (and thereby obscuring) the bitmapped image. If you do blend the effect, QuarkXPress creates a new picture box containing the effect blended into a copy of the original, underlying image. Once you're happy with the effect, you can delete the original image's picture box to save disk space and printing time.

Be prepared to allocate a lot of memory to QuarkXPress if you blend effects into images.

To use QX-Effects with text overlaying half-page, 300dpi TIFF images, I had to bump up the memory allocation to 40MB. It would be nice if QX-Effects could save RAM by swapping out the image it creates to disk.

QX-Effects 3.0.1 should be on your shopping list if you use special effects in QuarkXPress. 

Type:	XTension
Rating:	
RRP:	\$234
Distributor:	PICA Software
Telephone:	03 9388 9588
Facsimile:	03 9388 9788
Reviewer:	Galen Gruman

Test Strip 2.02

COLOUR PLUG-IN GAINS FEATURES

Vivid Details' Photoshop plug-in Test Strip simplifies colour correction, and version 2.02 adds several enhancements along with faster performance.

Test Strip presents four colour-correction modes: Color Balance, One Color, Exposure, and Saturation.

Color Balance displays the original image plus eight variations: darker, lighter, and with greater or lesser amounts of primary colours. Each image's variants are shown in 15-percent increments, but a slider control lets you make modifications. Whereas Test Strip 1.0 displayed its variations in nine sectors of a single image, the new version offers the option of viewing individual thumbnails of the entire image.

One Color displays variations of a single primary colour. By default, the image is divided into five vertical strips showing reduced and increased amounts of that colour; the software also provides horizontal and three-strip layouts. A Flip Layout



Test Strip 2.02 includes a new thumbnail layout mode for viewing colour corrections.

button lets you rearrange the strips, making it easy to see the effects of colour adjustments on different parts of the image. A similar Saturation mode lets you increase or decrease saturation with a slider.


Exposure offers control over brightness and contrast. Test Strip 1.0 adjusted these settings with a linear transfer function, which sometimes caused image data to be lost; the new version includes a curve-adjustment


option that better preserves the image. A new Auto White/Black Point button expands tonal range by moving the darkest and lightest pixels to black and white.

Test Strip's Before & After panel allows you to review changes you've made to the image. New in version 2.02, an editable task list presents all modifications you've made and lets you change these settings without going back to the

original panel. This capability partially compensates for the single Undo in Test Strip 2.02 (the original version offered unlimited Undos). Image modifications can also be recorded in the Photoshop Actions palette.

Test Strip ships with 115 effects and 72 photographic filters, but not the kind you apply from Photoshop's Filters menu. Instead, these presets perform standard image modifications, such as removing casts caused by common lighting conditions.

Test Strip 2.02 offers an intuitive approach to colour correction at a reasonable price, but a few features remain missing. Nevertheless, the upgrade adds several useful features to this valuable Photoshop plug-in. 

Type:	Publishing
Rating:	
RRP:	\$230
Distributor:	Tri-Scan
Telephone:	02 9418 9157
Facsimile:	02 9428 3824
Reviewer:	Stephen Beale

LANsurveyor 4.0

NETWORK MONITOR WEAK ON IP

Mac-based LAN administrators are being forced out of their cosy AppleTalk enclaves and into the big, scary world of mixed. IP and AppleTalk networks. The latest update to Neon Software's LANsurveyor aims to help administrators live with this trend.

LANsurveyor 4.0 consists of a central network-management application that scans your network for AppleTalk computers and routers, maps them, and monitors their status. It also includes a remote Responder application that you can install on users' Macs to collect detailed status and inventory information.

New in this release are the

tallying of hardware and software components for on-demand inventory reports, scheduled file distribution, SNMP-mail notification, and the ability to launch and quit applications running on remote machines. Also new is the ability to identify IP-based services. Unfortunately, because you need the Responder application to collect most IP-oriented information, automatic discovery and monitoring are limited to Macs. IP-based printers, non-Macintosh file servers, and routers are all invisible to LANsurveyor unless you configure them manually.

Part of LANsurveyor's new IP compatibility includes support for SNMP, the standard

network-management language spoken by IP devices. Using SNMP, LANsurveyor can query any SNMP-capable device and read traffic counters that measure the amount of data the device is moving. But because LANsurveyor reports only the current value of the traffic counters, you have to write down numbers and manually compute data rates in bytes per second. Worse, LANsurveyor lets you specify only one SNMP community name; if your network has several community names, you can't monitor every device. Worst of all, LANsurveyor itself still uses the obsolete AppleTalk protocol to talk to its remote-Mac Responders. That means you can't use any

of LANsurveyor's new inventory features across a TCP/IP-only router.

LANsurveyor 4.0 adds some useful new features, but it misses the boat completely by restricting these features to old-guard networks. Coupled with the inability to discover IP devices on its own, that makes LANsurveyor a poor choice. ☹

Type:	Network monitor
Rating:	👍👍 1/2
RRP:	from \$582
Distributor:	Lidcam
Telephone:	03 9820 9077
Facsimile:	03 9866 1245
Reviewer:	Mel Beckman

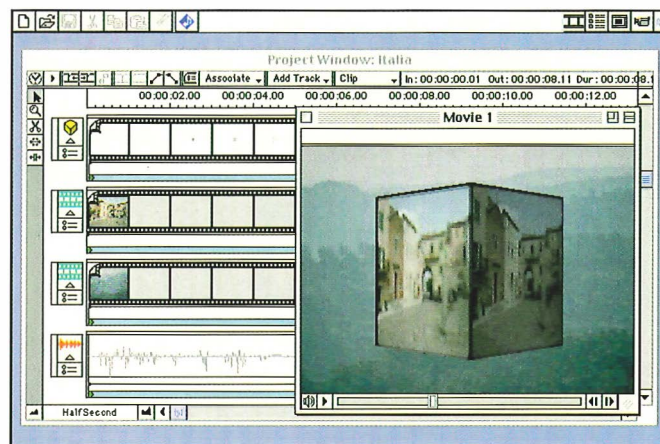
VideoShop 4.0/3D

VIDEO EDITOR ADDS 3D SUPPORT, MUSIC MAKER

The Oliver Twist of video editors, VideoShop is an appealing and troubled orphan that has bounced from one home to another. Settled now into the Strata family, VideoShop 4.0.1/3D is a good choice if you're on a budget and want to create multilayer video compositions.

The biggest interface change in the PowerPC-only VideoShop 4.0.1 is the addition of a Premiere-like Bin window that holds a project's imported media. (Previous VideoShop versions used a confusing folder-and-desktop metaphor.) As in earlier versions, you arrange imported media in the Project window, where you can view a production as a timeline or as a storyboard that displays one frame of each clip. The storyboard view is useful for assembling rough edits and rearranging clips, and it's unique to VideoShop.

Another VideoShop feature you won't find in Premiere is a window that lets you layer and resize clips and draw motion paths for clips to follow as they



VideoShop 4.0.1/3D can map clips onto 3D surfaces, which you can spin and resize using Tween tracks.

play, opening up more motion-animation possibilities than Premiere offers. All the usual transitions are here, along with an array of filters that's more interesting than Premiere's.

Even more interesting is VideoShop's new support for 3D effects: you can import a QuickDraw 3D-format 3DMF file and map a video clip onto it, though the process is a bit unwieldy (you have to add two types of specialised tracks and

then associate them with the clip you're mapping). Version 4.0.1 also includes a scaled-down version of AirWorks' TuneBuilder, which builds custom-length music soundtracks in a variety of musical styles. TuneBuilder is more cumbersome than similar products, but it works.

Although Strata has improved VideoShop, weak spots and design lapses remain. Importing PICT images is a

cumbersome, multistep process; you can't nudge clips in the Canvas window by using the arrow keys; the Project window doesn't autoscroll as you stretch clips or move tracks; and the Preview window always opens at the same location—which happens to be halfway off a 640-by-480-pixel monitor—even if you previously repositioned it. And although VideoShop works with most Adobe Photoshop plug-ins, it doesn't accept Premiere plug-ins, making a broad array of video and audio add-ons unavailable.

VideoShop 4.0.1/3D is a runner-up to Premiere for most uses, though its price may make its weaknesses easier to live with. ☹

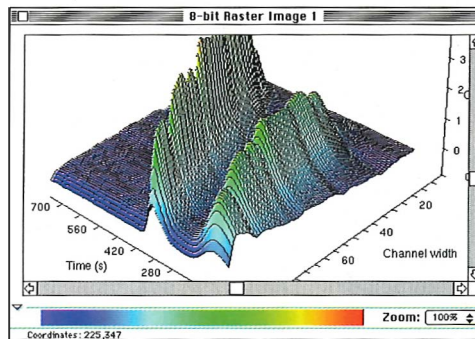
Type:	Video editor
Rating:	👍👍👍 1/2
RRP:	\$799
Distributor:	AD&D
Telephone:	02 9810 2422
Facsimile:	02 9810 0422
Reviewer:	Jim Heid

Noesys 1.1

VISUALISE YOUR DATA

When you see images from space or a weather map on the evening news, you may be looking at data that's coded in HDF (Hierarchical Data Format), the most common format for graphically representing scientific and other technical information. And Noesys 1.1.2, from Fortner Software, is an indispensable program for handling HDF data.

Using numbers in a spreadsheet-like table format as a two-dimensional slice for input, Noesys produces colourful 2D and 3D graphics. Unlike Microsoft Excel, Noesys can gracefully accept multimillion-point data sets, work with structured subsets of gigabyte-size arrays, organise 3D data into neatly ordered sets of 2D slices, view and edit original data in decimal or hexadecimal



In addition to translating data tables into 2D or 3D colour images, Noesys 1.1.2 offers unique data-manipulation and file-organisation features.

mode, and use a huge set of easily customised 8- or 24-bit colour palettes (included) to represent your numbers. In practice, finding the right colour scale for representation is often the key to seeing the one important fact lurking in a set of three million data numbers, and Noesys is the right


tool for this job.


Noesys includes a Fortran-based macro language for processing the data in your tables. Although the macro interpreter is quite fast, Noesys's raw speed at adding or differencing megabyte-size tables is even more impressive.

And because switching colour palettes is nearly instantaneous, searching for the most revealing visual representation of your data is more a pleasant activity than a chore.

I have only two complaints about Noesys. First, although it can convert netCDF, TIFF, and PICT images to HDF, a longer

list of conversion functions would make Noesys useful in a wider range of disciplines. And given Noesys's price, a printed manual should be part of the package rather than a \$70 option.

The new upgrade to Noesys is an excellent adaptation to the new web realities of document exchange. It's truly inspiring to see software that can turn a Macintosh into an ideal visualisation device. 

Type:	Scientific imaging
Rating:	 1/2
RRP:	\$1190
Distributor:	Techflow
Telephone:	02 9971 4311
Facsimile:	02 9982 3623
Reviewer:	Charles Seiter

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by Tonya Engst

Different web authors can have radically different needs, and there's really no such thing as a one-size-fits-all web-authoring tool. The best web authoring tool for you depends a lot on what kind of web pages you're creating. That's why we have graded 11 web-authoring programs in areas vital to web authors, and asked of each: Can this tool help you do the tasks you do every day?

Visual table creation

Webmasters depend on tables to create attractive page designs that have elements spread out all over a page. Creating a web page without using tables would be a lot like designing a magazine in SimpleText instead of QuarkXPress.

With varying degrees of success, most HTML editors offer tools that enable you to quickly create tables. But the best programs improve your productivity when it comes time to fine-tune those tables. A tool that forces you to set any property of a table one cell at a time is going to drive you crazy as soon as you discover you've got to make one tiny change to two dozen individual cells.

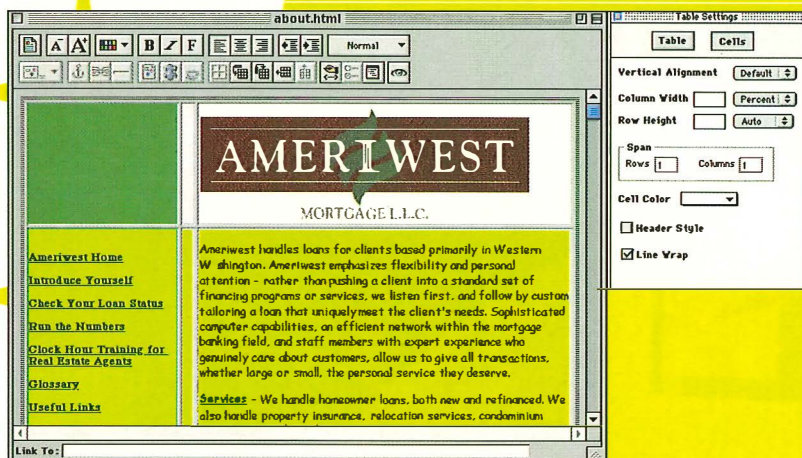
Visual Page supports just about every obscure HTML table feature in existence, which makes it sure to please even the pickiest HTML expert. And it's also extremely easy to use—you can grab whole rows or columns with your cursor and see how expanding or contracting them will affect the rest of the table.

Visual Page also lets you apply changes to cell

ILLUSTRATION: STUART BRADFORD

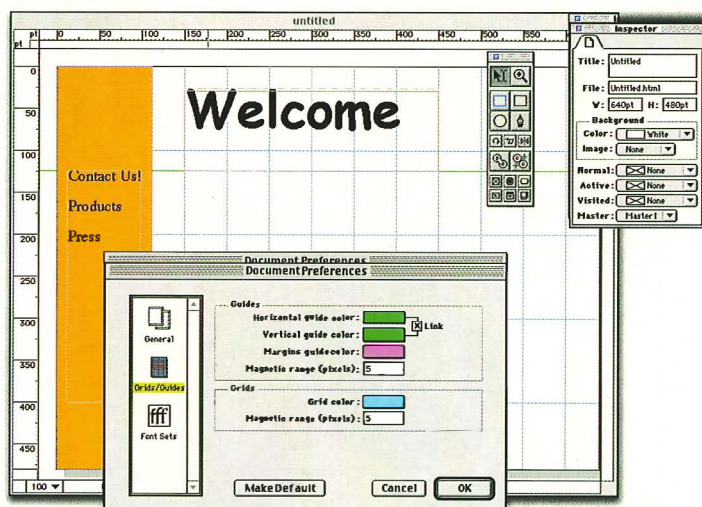
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Visual Page (above) lets you create tables easily, using the Table Settings palette to control specific table attributes.

If you're looking for free-form layout tools à la QuarkXPress, SoftPress Systems' Freeway (below), with its grid-based layouts and detailed customization options, will suit your needs.



formats (and the format of text within cells) without having to move repeatedly through menus and dialogue boxes. If you spend a lot of time editing tables, that feature alone will be a big time-saver.

Although we prefer Visual Page, both Dreamweaver and Claris Home Page also offer solid table-creation features—they're just not as easy to use as Visual Page's. Dreamweaver lets you try different types of formatting via an Apply button, without opening and closing dialogue boxes. Claris Home Page goes even further in this direction by providing a mode-less formatting palette that makes modifying table settings quick and easy.

Three other tools—CyberStudio, FrontPage, and PageMill—all cover the basics of table creation and editing admirably. Their drawback is that their interfaces will slow you down, making your table-editing sessions less productive than they could be.

Drag-and-drop page design

Some web-authoring programs shield you from using tables to design your web pages. Instead, these programs let you lay out a page by positioning its elements where you want them—as you would in a page-layout program such as QuarkXPress.

Most of these programs generate HTML tables just like the ones you can make by hand—but they do it automatically, based on the location of the objects you place on the page. You never have to count columns and rows and set cell alignment in order to fit the design in your head into an HTML table.

While tables used to be the only way to precisely lay out elements on a web page, version 4.0 of both Microsoft Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator/Communicator support absolute positioning, which lets you place objects on a page in floating layers instead of within table cells.

Because only the version 4.0 web browsers can view such pages, it'll be a while before this method of web design becomes commonplace. At the time of testing, the only product that supported absolute positioning was Dreamweaver, which does not automatically generate tables. Dreamweaver's approach to page layout is also awkward, forcing you to click on a layer's icon in order to grab and move it. Since the icons aren't labelled, it can be difficult to find the appropriate one if your page contains many different layers.

Since Freeway is descended from a desktop-publishing program, UniQorn, it's no surprise that it creates pixel-perfect layouts with grace and ease. Freeway's approach should be particularly easy for QuarkXPress users to learn. But there's a downside: while Freeway is fantastic for layout, it lacks good support for many other important features, including frame editing.

NetObjects Fusion also uses the drag-and-drop approach to page design, but its interface and layout tools are much more basic than Freeway's. For example, Fusion lacks rulers and grouping, two features that designers coming from a desktop-publishing background will expect. However, Fusion's support for other HTML features is better than Freeway's.

Although you must use automatically generated tables in Freeway and Fusion, CyberStudio 2.0.2 allows you to alternate between automatically generated tables and traditional table-building methods, even within the same document. This flexibility is especially welcome given that many pages are relatively simple in design and don't require the added control that drag-and-drop page layout brings.

CyberStudio 2.0.2's drag-and-drop layout features are more rudimentary than Fusion's (although CyberStudio 3.0, which could be shipping by the time you read this, should incorporate more advanced layout features). The tested version 2.02 lacks rulers, can't align items with respect to one another, and won't let you position an object using x-y coordinates. But since you can mix this style of design with traditional HTML layout tools within the same document, the limitations of CyberStudio 2.02's drag-and-drop layout tools aren't quite as noticeable.

Designing with frames

Frame sets—web pages that display different HTML documents in separate panes within one web-browser window—are a common way to display static navigation tools or banner ads while a user browses through a web site. Since a frame set is made up of a frame document and several HTML files, it can be difficult

for HTML-editing tools to provide powerful frame-authoring support.

Many authoring tools fall down when it comes to editing frames because they fail to give authors enough control over the appearance of the frame set and don't take into account navigational issues that arise when you're creating hyperlinks between frames.

When it comes to designing frame sets, you can't beat either CyberStudio or Dreamweaver. Both programs support most common frame features and let you set a frame's size numerically and specify a frame's border colour and thickness. Both also offer features that speed up the frame-editing process, including easy pop-up menus that allow you to choose which frame you're targeting with a hyperlink.

Fusion 2.0.2 doesn't let you specify many of the nitty-gritty features of a frame set, but it does offer a unique approach to creating frames. Using Fusion's Master Borders feature, you can place master elements in a page's margins and set those elements to also appear on other pages on your site. You can turn Master Borders into frames simply by checking the

be valuable for adding to your pages features that your visual program doesn't support.

A good text-based HTML editor is more than just a text editor. The program should offer time-saving utilities that automate many of the aspects of HTML coding, so you can spend your brainpower designing pages.

BBEdit is in many ways the king of HTML tools. In fact, it's hard to find any hard-core webmaster who won't extol the virtues of this text editor. BBEdition offers a large set of built-in HTML shortcuts, including a configurable tool bar of HTML commands. BBEdition's pattern-matching search-and-replace feature lets you reformat lots of HTML tags quickly once you've picked up the complicated GREP command jargon.

BBEdit may get lots of good press, but the shareware text editor Alpha beats it in the area of HTML features. When you add Johan Linde's free plug-in, HTML mode 2.0.3 <www.theophys.kth.se/~jl/Alpha.html>, Alpha becomes a remarkably flexible and customisable HTML editing tool. Alpha gives you a huge amount of control over how the HTML tags it generates appear on

screen, and it speeds up productivity by mapping just about every HTML feature to a keyboard shortcut.

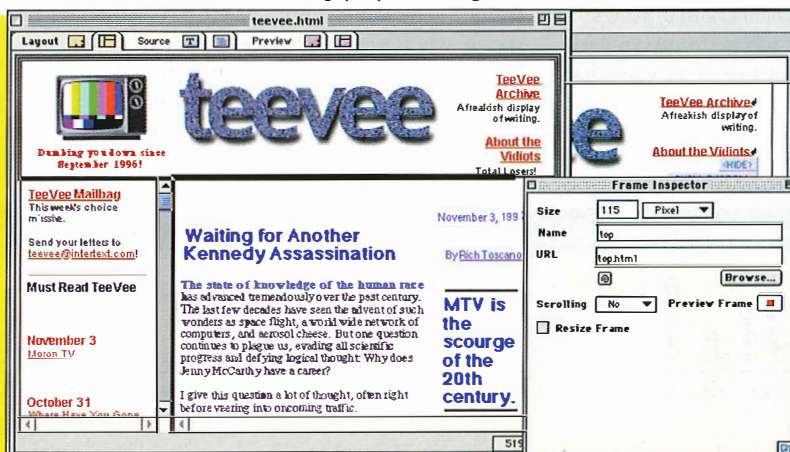
Alpha's level of detail even goes down to the placement of your cursor. The program's Tab Marks feature can automatically insert HTML tags and then move you in between them to enter the appropriate text. Once it's time to move on, pressing the tab key moves you instantly to the next part of your page.

Another shareware product, PageSpinner, is also a strong HTML-code editor. Unlike Alpha and BBEdition, which were originally programmers' text editors before turning their attention to HTML, PageSpinner was designed specifically as an HTML editor.

PageSpinner offers a broad collection of useful features, although it isn't as powerful or versatile as either Alpha or BBEdition; for instance, PageSpinner doesn't offer multiple levels of undo. But what PageSpinner lacks in maturity it makes up for with lots of features geared toward making HTML editing easy for people who aren't well-versed in the nuances of HTML coding.

In addition to text-only tools, many visual programs offer HTML-code-editing features of their own, meaning you don't have to close your document in one program and reopen it in another just to change one line of code. Of all the visual tools, CyberStudio and Dreamweaver clearly lead the pack.

Dreamweaver comes bundled with a copy of BBEdition and is tightly integrated with that program. As you toggle between the programs, they update your document automatically. Most impressive of all is Dreamweaver's Roundtrip HTML feature, which ensures that the program doesn't alter HTML code



GoLive CyberStudio excels at frame editing. You can preview your pages in a frame set while editing them in separate windows, and setting frame options is easy via the Frame Inspector palette.

Generate HTML Frame Borders check box. Fusion also automatically generates graphical navigation bars if you so desire. These features make it easy to set up navigational elements for large sites.

Because Claris Home Page 3.0 was released recently, it supports more frame features than most programs, including letting you change the colour and thickness of frame borders. PageMill's frame support doesn't do that, but it does let you edit different pages within their frame, so you can see immediately how your frame set will look in a browser.

Visual Page's strength in the area of frames is in its easy-to-learn interface, which makes it a particularly good tool if you don't work with frame sets very often and aren't familiar with all the nuances of frame-based design.

Editing raw HTML

Despite all the visual web-page tools out there, there's no replacement for the control you get when you take HTML code into your own hands. Even if you love your visual page-creation program, a text editor can



BBEdit's helpful HTML tool bar gives you quick access to the program's handy HTML coding shortcuts.

you've written in a text editor unless you actually edit that section of the page. In contrast, all the other visual editors modified hand-coded HTML immediately.

While CyberStudio 2.02 doesn't offer tight integration with BBEdit, its built-in text editor is still fairly useful and many enhancements are promised for it in version 3.0.

Site management

The job of keeping a web site up-to-date can be incredibly difficult, especially if your site is made up of dozens or hundreds of pages. Ideally, a web-authoring tool would let you keep track of all your site's pages, verifying that your hyperlinks still work and allowing you to update links globally. It should also be able to upload and download files from remote web servers and let you perform global changes on your pages in a few easy steps. And it should be able to understand your site's structure and automatically generate navigational elements.

Unfortunately, none of the programs we looked at provides the complete site-maintenance solution. But some certainly come closer to the mark than others.

Microsoft FrontPage is the top performer in terms of site-management features. It verifies all your site's hyperlinks, it lets you upload and download files via FTP, and you can search and replace text on all the pages of your site. And if more than one person at a

time updates your site, FrontPage's to-do list is extremely useful, since it supports multiple users.

But for all of FrontPage's strengths, it's got a confusing interface, and it's almost too slow to be useable unless you've got a fast Power Mac.

FrontPage and Dreamweaver both let you create "include files", template files you can insert in any web page. When you change the contents of the main include file, that change is automatically made on every page that uses that file.

CyberStudio 2.02 doesn't offer FrontPage's to-do list, but it does provide a much more appealing and useful interface. One of CyberStudio's strongest site-management features is the ability to see all the pages that are linked to or from your page in a fast, easy-to-understand interface.

Although it's no spring chicken, PageMill and its bundled SiteMill utility still offer good link-management features at an economical price. BBEdit's multi-file search-and-replace and built-in FTP upload and download features are similarly impressive.

Both Freeway and Fusion offer strong site-creation features. Freeway's master-documents feature lets you specify where repeating elements appear on sub-pages. In Fusion, you can quickly map out site hierarchies in a view that looks like a flow chart. Fusion also supports uploading pages via FTP, including the ability to upload only the pages in your site that have changed

Web-authoring products / features and availability

Rating	Product	Availability	Visual editing	FTP	Visual site overview	Scriptable	Multiple undo in edit view	Site-wide spelling checker	Site-wide search & replace	Include files	Best for
🐭🐭🐭 1/2	GoLive's CyberStudio 2.0.2	\$495 RRP until July; distributed by AD&D: 02 9810 2422, fax 02 9810 0422	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	Professional web publishing.
🐭🐭🐭	FileMaker's Claris Home Page 3.0	\$149 RRP; distributed by Dataflow: 02 9417 9700, fax 02 9417 9797	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	no	Quick page layout; FileMaker integration.
🐭🐭🐭	Pete Keleher's Alpha 7.0	\$US30 shareware from <www.cs.umd.edu/~keleher/alpha.html>.	no	no	no	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	Professional HTML editing.
🐭🐭 1/2	Adobe's PageMill 2.0	\$199 RRP; distributed by Adobe: 02 9418 8488, fax 02 9418 8489	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	yes	no	Quick page layout; link management.
🐭🐭 1/2	Bare Bones Software's BBEdit 4.5.1a	\$230 RRP; distributed by AAPDA: 1800 642 732, fax 1800 674 615	no	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	Professional HTML editing.
🐭🐭 1/2	Macromedia's Dreamweaver 1.0	\$495 RRP; distributed by Firmware: 02 4721 7211, fax 02 4721 7215	yes	yes	no	no	yes	no	no	yes	Professional site design with HTML 4.
🐭🐭 1/2	NetObjects' Fusion 2.0.2	\$495 RRP; distributed by Firmware: 02 4721 7211, fax 02 4721 7215	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	Quick-and-dirty setup for big sites.
🐭🐭 1/2	Optima's PageSpinner 2.0.1	\$US25 shareware from <www.algonet.se/~optima>.	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	User-friendly HTML editing.
🐭🐭 1/2	Symantec's Visual Page 1.1	\$109 RRP; distributed by Symantec: 02 9879 6577, 02 9879 6805	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	Quick page layout; tables.
🐭🐭 1/2	Microsoft's FrontPage for Macintosh 1.0	\$159 distributed by Microsoft: 02 9870 2200, fax 02 9805 1108	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	Site management.
🐭🐭 1/2	SoftPress's Freeway 1.0.1	\$US299 download from <www.softpress.com>.	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	Quick, flexible page layout.

Products are listed alphabetically according to publisher within groups of equal mouse rating.

since your last upload.

Finally, we should mention UserLand's free Frontier 5 <www.scripting.com/frontier5/>. It's not really an HTML-editing tool. Rather, it's a scriptable, database-related program that can build HTML files according to templates you create. However, the power of Frontier is somewhat muted by its steep learning curve.

Advanced HTML features

Among the biggest stories in web-authoring circles is the emergence of cascading style sheets (CSS), dynamic HTML (DHTML), and JavaScript. These innovations will radically change how web pages are designed—as soon as enough web users upgrade their web browsers to the latest versions, which take advantage of these new HTML features.

Just as Dreamweaver offers support for the absolute positioning of elements on a page, it's well out in front when it comes to support for DHTML, JavaScript, and style sheets. Until other tools (such as the versions of CyberStudio, Fusion, and Alpha that were forthcoming at writing) are rejigged to take advantage of these innovations, Dreamweaver is your only real choice if you want to be out on the edge of web features.

Dreamweaver's style-sheet interface is clean and easy to use. However, its Director-style timeline interface for creating DHTML animation is confusing. In Dreamweaver you can create behaviours for objects on your page (for example, making a GIF image that changes when the cursor passes over it), and the program automatically adds the appropriate JavaScript code to make them work in a web browser. However, adding behaviours to Dreamweaver is still a bit more time-consuming than it should be.

GoLive says that version 3.0 CyberStudio, which could be shipping by the time you read this, will provide an easy-to-use what-you-see-is-what-you-get interface for CSS, JavaScript and DHTML authoring.

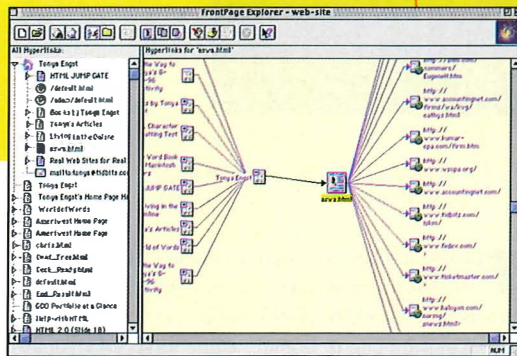
The bottom line

So many of the tools we looked at for this article are remarkably similar in terms of features and overall quality that the best program for you will be whichever one excels at the aspect of web authoring that's most important to the work you do.

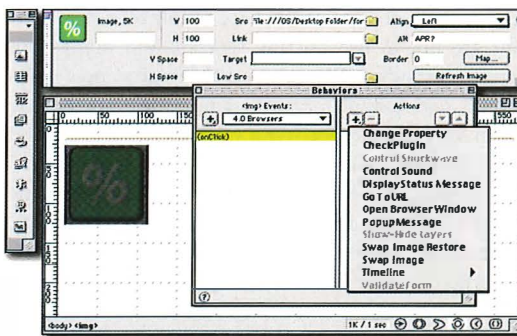
For example, if you maintain a small company's web site and don't really want to wrestle with HTML tags, consider one of the Claris Home Page, Visual Page, and PageMill trio. These three products are very similar. PageMill's customisable colour palette is impressive, and the program offers some good site-management features via the bundled SiteMill software. Visual Page is tops among the three at creating and formatting tables. And Claris Home Page is a good bet if you plan to put your FileMaker databases on the web.

If you're a professional web-site designer who wants a program that does everything well, GoLive CyberStudio should be at the top of your shopping list. It excels at creating frame sets, lets you switch between table-based and pixel-perfect layout modes, and offers strong site-management features.

If your job is to create beautiful web-site designs



Microsoft FrontPage's Hyperlink View is one of its best features. Clicking on the plus or minus sign at the upper left of an icon (a Windows convention Microsoft chose not to alter for Mac users) shows or hides links from a particular page.



With such features as the Behaviors window, which lets you add JavaScript-based actions to a web page without having to write any code, Macromedia's Dreamweaver leads the way in terms of supporting DHTML.

and then hand them off to someone else who will do the nitty-gritty HTML coding, Freeway's powerful layout tools may be just what you've been looking for.

If being on the cutting edge is vital to you, Dreamweaver is probably your best bet. It's great with tables and frames and was the first program to support cascading style sheets, DHTML, and absolute positioning of objects on a page. Its integration with BBEdit makes it a very attractive package for those who plan to spend most of their time coding in BBEdit.

With NetObjects Fusion, it's seductively simple to create rigidly hierarchical sites, an attribute that makes the program perfect for web publishing newcomers or those who must create sites with a lot of similarly formatted pages. But if you're a web veteran, you'll feel trapped by Fusion's lack of flexibility.

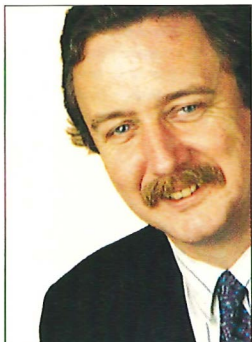
People who are used to working in a visual program but want to try their hand at HTML coding should consider taking the friendly and instructive PageSpinner out for a test drive—that's what shareware's all about, after all.

Among text editors, we recommend Alpha and its free HTML mode 2.0.3 plug-in. Alpha's many subtle, easy-to-use features let you create HTML quickly and with a minimum of mouse and keyboard use. And although Alpha is only shareware and BBEdit is a commercial product, Alpha's HTML mode is far better documented than BBEdit's HTML features, making it easier to learn and to master. However, it's fair to say that many of BBEdit's features are more polished and more accessible to non-programmers than Alpha's.

If you're looking for the single best overall web design program, we recommend GoLive CyberStudio. It's a little too expensive for intermediate web designers, but its features run broad and deep and its interface is attractive and easy to use. ☞

Tonya Engst edits TidBITS <www.tidbits.com>.

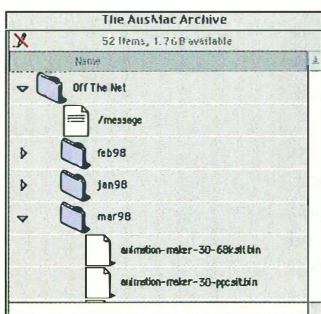
How big is the internet?



News and software from the international networks, collected by Frank O'Connor.

The AusMac archive now has its own domain.

Point your web browser at www.ausmac.net to download the software in this column.



Using the IP-enabled AppleShare in Mac OS 8.x, Australian Macworld readers can mount The AusMac Archive—including the online edition of Off the Net—on their desktops like it is a remote hard disk.

The net, it seems, is growing exponentially. The Bellcore site at www.netsizer.com recently estimated that there were 30,096,400 hosts on the net, based on a statistical sampling of domain name servers. Personally I think that is a huge over-estimation since, as we all know, many domain names have simply been registered but are not in use hosting servers, and many web servers (including Telstra's and OzEmail's) now commonly host multiple domain names. I live for the day when someone can discover a valid and reliable method for estimating the size of the net.

Speaking of domain names, the debate over the registration process is fast becoming a bureaucratic farce. First, the Internet Society established the IAHC (Internet Ad Hoc Committee) which came down with what I thought a perfectly reasonable way to register domain names. Then the EC and UN raised facile objections to the process, perhaps in hope of gaining some control over the internet. Typically, the US reacted to the EC and ITU (International Telecommunication Union) pronouncements by proposing its own scheme, and now the nasty side of nationalism has raised its ugly head.

Hello! Is it just me, or was the net functioning fine under the auspices of ISOC and IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force) before the heavy hand of government decided to descend on it? Bit of advice for various governments: if it's working, don't try to fix it. Just let ISOC and IETF get on with it, and butt out.

Well, its finally time to invest in a 56 kilobits per second modem. The ITU has at least agreed "in principle" to a 56Kbps modem standard to be called V.90. As you read this the standard should be finalised and written in stone.

If you're using Mac OS 8.x, have AppleShare enabled, and have a reasonably fast internet connection, try this: Go to your Chooser and select the AppleShare icon. Click on Server IP Address and type in 129.94.12.224. Click on OK. Login as Guest and select The AusMac Archive from the list. The site will then mount on your desktop, and the online edition of Off The Net is a folder within. Let webmaster Grant Bayley know what you think—personally, I think it's way cool.

Public domain software

System extenders. I like Kineticon, which animates your desktop icons. There are already a number of animated icon packages, including Ikinethusians, which add to Kineticon's repertoire. Pretty Scroll gives the old scroll bars a real make over, and competes well with Smart Scroll. I'm getting to love Window Monkey, which adds background pictures or textures to any window.

Utilities. FontBox will organise and repair your font libraries in a couple of minutes. Jerry's Finder 8 Patch patches the Mac OS 8.1 Finder to add some nifty new abilities. Zip or Jaz drive users wanting to take advantage of Mac OS 8.1's HFS+ should hit www.iomega.com to update their Iomega driver software. The latest OmegaWindow is an application and window-manager *par excellence*. Fuzzy Find is a neat utility that uses fuzzy logic to find files. StripLaunch is a launcher control-strip module. The SmartKeys control panel eliminates many common typing and spelling errors, and doubles as a keystroke saver.

Communications. The current version of TeleFinder User continues to set the standard for Mac communications software, especially for members of TeleFinder-based bulletin boards.

Internet. Email Effects does cool ASCII graphics which you can include in your email. The latest version of MT NewsWatcher continues to bring the benefits of multi-tasking to news reading. XContact is a net-aware address book.


Web design. PageCharmer is a set of Java applets to include in your web pages. Cinnamon WebMaster Suite and Wallaby are cool HTML editors. MacBurger Helper is a collection of buttons and patterns to include in your pages.

Network. Computer Admin is a FileMaker Pro database for tracking hardware, software and network information.

Graphics and sound. If you're using Photoshop to create web graphics, you can't go past these plug-ins and filters: ColorSafe, ImageVice, PhotoGIF, PhotoGIFFilter, PhotoGIFLite, ProJPEG and WebClipper. And before you dump the finished suckers on a web server, you might want to run them through GIFPrep to strip them of their Mac resource forks.

PopUpCD and AudioDeck are audio CD players with a little more to offer than Apple's, and MacCDDB will search a net site to find and save, in Apple CD Audio Player format, the track names for whatever audio CD you've inserted. PushBtnBach spontaneously generates new minuets in the style of Johann Sebastian.

Applications. The latest version of the popular Genealogy Pro is a major upgrade. You bought your Mac to keep recipes, right? If so, Computer Cuisine and the Computer CookBook may hit the spot. The latter requires at least FileMaker Pro 3.0. Joe's Golf Stats and Mulligan's Golf Personal should help you analyse where you're going wrong with your game. BBEdit Lite is out in a new version, and can be had from web.barebones.com/products/bbedit/bbedit.html.

Games. Bumbler Bee-Luxe puts you in charge of defending a beehive from marauding predators. 

Finally! A Real Design Tool for the Web

Visual Layout and Design Control

Unlike novice Web authoring tools, GoLive CyberStudio lets you visually layout Web pages using a grid and frames. Simply drag-and-drop files directly from the Finder onto your Web page. You precisely control the placement of objects—just as you would with page layout software.

HTML Native File Format

Different from other site-creation tools, GoLive CyberStudio always works in an HTML native file format. So at any stage of production you can get at your HTML source code or share files with people using any other HTML authoring tool.

Project and Site Management

Graphically design a site's structure, adjust the site's hierarchy, add pages, delete pages, as well as verify, change and update links and anchors.

Layout, Textual and Site-Oriented Modes

Design a page visually in a graphical layout mode, write HTML source code, create frames, edit JavaScripts, even structure an entire site. You are never restricted to someone else's idea of the smartest way to build a Web site.

Without a doubt, the Macintosh is the designer's computer. But till now, you've been waiting for Macintosh software that truly supports the design of a professional quality Web site. Well, stop waiting and start working!

GoLive CyberStudio is the first real solution for HTML layout, design and Web site management. It gives Macintosh users unprecedented creative control and flexibility when designing a Web site.



key benefits

- Gain Creative Control and Flexibility
- Share HTML Files with Others
- Leverage Your Macintosh Investment
- Maximize Your Productivity
- Focus on Design—Not Technology
- Integrate Multimedia and Interactivity

GoLive CyberStudio

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<http://www.golive.com>



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The newest
Mac Java
releases deliver
top performance—
even outpacing
Windows Java.

By Stephan
Somogyi
& Jason Snell

Java finally delivers

No subject in the computer world has been hyped more in recent years than Java. The creator of the Java programming language, Sun Microsystems <java.sun.com>, promotes Java as computing's universal language, with the potential to change the way high-tech devices work. In the great and glorious Java Future, it won't matter if the program you've gotta have was written by someone using Windows 95, because if it was written in Java, it'll also work on your Mac—and your phone, and your TV, and your toaster.

That's all well and good as a vision, but what can Java do for Macintosh users today? Developers who have tried to write complex applications in Java have discovered that the write-once, run-everywhere

promise of Java has not yet been fulfilled. So far, no one has run out and reprogrammed a Java version of the Windows accounting program you've longed to have on your Mac. In fact, the one developer who announced plans to reprogram its suite of office programs in Java—Corel—has since scuttled those efforts.

Today's Java may not be revolutionary, but with some knowledge, you can see through the hype and squeeze some real benefits out of it, particularly on the web. Many web sites use small Java programs (called applets) for some of their coolest features. Web designers are also able to create complex pages designed completely in Java. These designs are displayed via a Java applet in your web browser rather

than through the use of old-fashioned HTML code. And since the pages aren't limited by the strict rules of HTML, they can offer more richness of design.

To take advantage of Java's interactive and design boons, however, you must have a particular piece of system software known as a virtual machine, which runs Java applets on your Mac, usually within a web browser window. And to enjoy Java without aging significantly in the process, you'll want the fastest Java virtual machine around.

The soul of the virtual machine

Java is more than just a programming language—it's a computing platform all its own.

When programmers work with other computer languages, they have to write their programs to work with specific parts of an operating system, whether it's the Mac OS or Windows 95. Java doesn't work this way. Unlike other programs, Java applets aren't created for a specific type of computer, such as a Power Mac or an Intel-standard PC. They're not even created for a particular operating system, such as Mac OS, MkLinux or Windows NT. Rather, they're written for a generic Java "computer". This means that you can run a Java applet on any computer as long as you have the means to translate instructions for the Java "computer" into your own computer's native language. As we mentioned before, to do this your computer needs a virtual machine. This program works a lot like the hidden emulator software that lets your Power Mac run programs written for a completely different processor type, the 680x0 chips found in earlier Macintosh systems.

There are many virtual machines available for the Mac. Which should you choose? A critical concern is how fast each one performs, so Macworld Lab tested six Mac-based virtual machines and a comparable set of virtual machines on Windows 95, using the industry-standard CaffeineMark 3.0 benchmark developed by Pendragon Software <www.webfayre.com>.

Speed matters

One of our main discoveries was the importance of a speed-enhancing feature called a just-in-time (or JIT) compiler. While normal virtual machines interpret Java code one instruction at a time, a JIT compiler translates each Java instruction into the native language of your computer's processor, runs that code, and then keeps the translated code around for a while in case it's used again soon.

Most programs run a lot of the same instructions over and over, which means that a normal virtual machine interprets that same code over and over. But a JIT compiler translates that code only once, thereafter running the instructions as native code—a big time-saver.

When the JIT compiler first gets hold of Java code, there's a brief lag while the compiler does all the work of converting Java code into native code. But when the program does start to run, it's much faster—as much as four times as fast in our lab tests—than if it were running with a non-JIT virtual machine.

The JIT factor

We tested several virtual machines for the Mac that did not have a JIT compiler, namely Apple's Mac OS Runtime for Java (MRJ) 1.0.2 <www.apple.com/macos/java/>, Netscape Navigator 3.0's virtual machine <home.netscape.com/download>, and Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 <www.microsoft.com/ie/mac/> using its own virtual machine with default settings.

It's likely that you're using one of them if you're running Mac OS 8: Apple's MRJ 1.0.2. This MRJ kicks in when you're using Apple's web browser Cyberdog <cyberdog.apple.com>, if you've selected the MRJ in Internet Explorer's Java preferences, and in the rare cases when you might use Apple's stand-alone Applet Runner to look at applets that aren't web-based. Without the benefit of a JIT compiler, this virtual machine is extremely slow—the slowest of all the virtual machines we tested.



Faster Java / just in time

Java virtual machines for the Mac are fast and getting faster. So much so that Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0's virtual machine for the Mac now runs Java slightly faster than its Windows counterpart. There's no doubt that just-in-time (JIT) compilers have been a big part of this acceleration. All the virtual machines with JIT compilers—namely, IE 4.0's and Netscape Navigator 4.0's virtual machines, as well as Apple's MRJ 2.0—leave non-JIT virtual machines in the dust, on average running Java three to four times as fast.

—Stephan Somogyi & Jason Snell

Test JVMs	CaffeineMark 3.0 score	JIT compiler
Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 VM with JIT compiler enabled	1349	yes
Mac OS Runtime for Java 2.0 (running in Internet Explorer 4.0)	630	yes
Netscape Navigator 4.04 VM	550	yes
Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 VM with JIT compiler disabled	312	no
Netscape Navigator 3.04 VM	181	no
Mac OS Runtime for Java 1.0.2 (running in Internet Explorer 4.0)	154	no
Reference (Windows 95) JVMs		
Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 VM with JIT compiler enabled	1173	yes
Netscape Navigator 4.04 VM	899	yes
Netscape Navigator 3.04 VM	494	no
Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 VM with JIT compiler disabled	218	no

Best overall performance in red. Longer bars are better. Macworld Lab used Pendragon Software's CaffeineMark 3.0 to test Java virtual machines. Tests were run on a Power Macintosh 7300/200 running Mac OS 8 and on a 166MHz Pentium PC with Windows 95 installed. Both systems were equipped with 32MB of RAM. Tests were performed without independent verification by Pendragon Software, and Pendragon Software makes no representations or warranties as to the results of the tests. Macworld Lab testing supervised by Gil Loyola.

Shifting sands / changes ahead for Java

Since these Java virtual machines were tested, Microsoft and Apple have announced that they will be merging their Java virtual machines for the Macintosh. Apple expects to ship the unified JVM later this year. When it does, Microsoft Internet Explorer will rely on it exclusively.

The move follows the August 1997 announcement of a five-pillar alliance between Apple and Microsoft; the fifth pillar was co-operation between Apple and Microsoft to ensure compatibility between their Java Virtual Machines.

The companies will work to build Mac OS support into Microsoft's J/Direct technology, which is currently used to let Java programmers build Windows-only features into otherwise cross-platform Java programs.

J/Direct does not have the support of Java's founder, Sun Microsystems, which says the technology erodes Java's write-once/run-anywhere potential.

Another recent attack on Sun's "100-percent pure Java" position has come from Hewlett-Packard, which has developed a "Java-compatible" virtual machine, custom-modified for "embedded applications" such as those that might run on a smart microwave, mobile phone or handheld computer. Microsoft has licensed HP's technology for use with its Windows CE handheld-computer technology.

— Steven Noble



If you've been using Navigator 3.0, you've also been without the JIT advantage in your Java dealings, as the virtual machine in this version of Navigator also doesn't offer a JIT compiler. However, slow as it is, it's still slightly faster than Apple's MRJ 1.0.2.

Your Java experience will be similarly poky if you forget to enable Microsoft Virtual Machine's JIT compiler in Internet Explorer 4.0. (The compiler is turned off by default. To turn it on, click on the Java pane in Explorer's Preferences window, make sure Microsoft Virtual Machine is selected, check the Enable Just-in-time Compiler box, and quit and relaunch Internet Explorer.) But even with the JIT compiler turned off, Explorer 4.0's virtual machine is twice as fast as MRJ 1.0.2.

Despite speed variations, the basic fact is that virtual machines without JIT compilers are extremely slow. Avoid them.

Speedier options

To optimise your Java experience, make sure your virtual machine is fully equipped with a JIT compiler. Apple's newest version of the MRJ offers just that. Mac OS Runtime for Java 2.0 runs roughly four times as fast as its predecessor. Download it from ftp.apple.com.au/pub/asu/macintosh/system/java/, or make sure you install MRJ 2.0 when you upgrade to Mac OS 8.1 from the CD-ROM.

If you'd like to run Apple's MRJ from within a web browser other than Cyberdog, you're in luck. Unlike Netscape Navigator, Internet Explorer lets you choose whether to use Apple's MRJ or Microsoft's own Java virtual machine. (Click on the Java pane in Internet Explorer's Preferences window, and choose either Microsoft Virtual Machine or Apple MRJ. Then quit and restart Explorer.)

Netscape Navigator 4.0 also sports a JIT-based virtual machine (developed in cooperation with Symantec) that shows a clear speed improvement over the non-JIT virtual machine that shipped with Navigator 3.0. Java runs three times as fast on the newer version. However, this time Netscape's implementation lags way behind Apple's. Apple's MRJ 2.0 was 10 to 15 percent as fast as Navigator 4.0 in our tests.

By a huge margin, Internet Explorer 4.0 with the JIT compiler enabled was the fastest Mac virtual machine we tested. It scored more than twice as fast on the CaffeineMark tests as did either Navigator 4.0

or Apple's MRJ 2.0. The lesson is that if you're going to be using Java a lot, you're best off using Internet Explorer 4.0 and its JIT-based virtual machine, unless you prefer using another web browser for reasons unrelated to Java.

Mac Java catches up to Windows

Once you've got a speedier virtual machine on your Mac, you may wonder just how fast it runs Java when compared with Windows PCs. Java is a cross-platform language after all, so we also ran the CaffeineMark tests on a PC running Windows 95 to see what you get in comparison.

The results are encouraging: the fastest results we got from a 200MHz Power Mac posted slightly higher than those of a fairly comparable 166MHz Pentium PC—an entry-level Windows system by today's standards. This is good news for the Mac, traditionally a major Java laggard.

Only a few months ago, before the release of Internet Explorer 4.0's lightning-fast JIT compiler, the Mac wasn't even on the same playing field as Windows PCs, but now the race has narrowed significantly. The pace of improvement is also promising.

The Mac still has a lot of catching up to do to meet Java's speed on the Windows platform, but for the first time, the Mac is actually in the game.

The last word

The Java virtual machines available to Mac users are getting faster and faster—so much so that you no longer have to look at your shoes and shake your head when a Windows user suggests you check out the latest cool Java applet on the web. We owe part of this improvement to Microsoft itself, whose Internet Explorer 4.0, with its own virtual machine, runs Java faster than any other option for the Mac.

Internet Explorer is clearly the best choice if you want to run Java applets at the highest speed possible. But if other factors persuade you to go with another browser or virtual machine, the bottom line is that you want one with a JIT compiler. With this knowledge in hand, you'll be able to make the most out of Java today ☺

Stephan Somogyi is an all-around internet guru and freelance writer. Jason Snell covers all things internet for US Macworld.





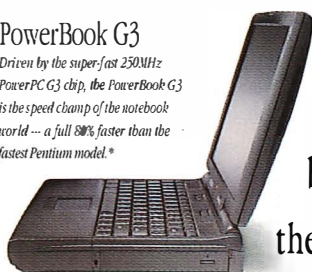
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For some people, being different is a risk. For others, it's a career. At Apple, we make tools for everyone who thinks differently, and now we've built the most powerful

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*Driven by the super-fast 250MHz PowerPC G3 chip, the PowerBook G3 is the speed champ of the notebook world — a full 80% faster than the fastest Pentium model.**



*PowerBook G3 is 1.8 times faster than a Pentium 233 notebook running a suite of Photoshop tests.

tools in Macintosh history: The Power Macintosh G3 family.

The new G3 models (desktop and PowerBook) are both built upon the furiously fast PowerPC G3 processor. So each of them can rip through complex work faster than even the speediest

PC. With a new processor and completely re-designed architecture, the new Macintoshes are optimised to run the world's most popular graphics, design and multimedia applications.

So if you like to break rules, start with the one that says great things happen slowly. Get a new Power Macintosh G3. Then you can spend less time waiting - and more time exploring your ideas.

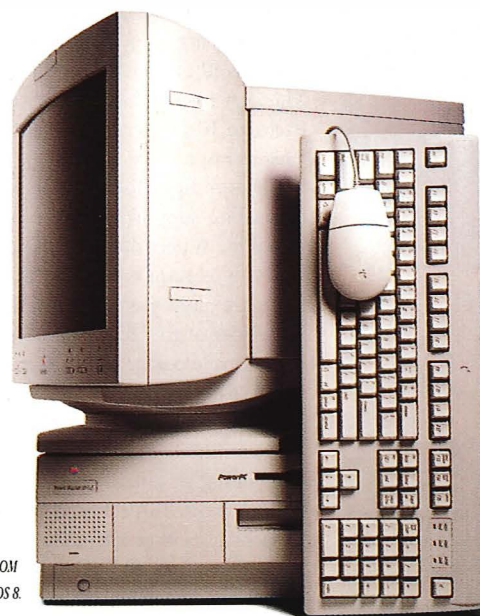
Adobe™ Photoshop™ Performance

(Total time, 16 Photoshop 4.0 tasks)

Power Macintosh G3-266	611.1
Pentium II/300 Windows NT	718.0
Pentium II/266 Windows NT	814.5

System Performance (MacBench performance scores)

Power Macintosh 7300/200	358
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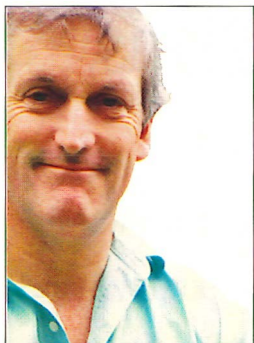
Power Macintosh G3 Desktop

233 or 266MHz PowerPC G3 processor, 512K backside cache, 66MHz system bus, 32-192MB memory, 4GB hard disk, 24x CD-ROM drive, 2-6MB VRAM, 3 PCI slots. Includes keyboard, mouse, Mac OS 8.

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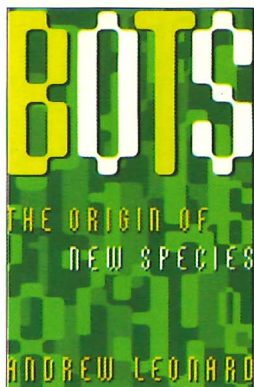
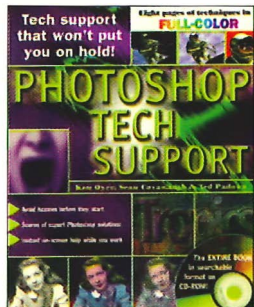
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Instruction and introspection



Computer books,
reviewed by Keith White.

From practical
advice to purple
prose.



Oyer, Cavanaugh and
Padova's *Photoshop Tech
Support* and Leonard's
*Bots, The Origin of New
Species*.

Chalk and cheese titles this month. Roll up the sleeves with *Photoshop Tech Support* and then zap around cyberspace with *Bots*.

The Photoshop title is a collaboration between Ken Oyer, Sean Cavanaugh and Ted Padova—designers and Mac-toting Photoshop gurus all. A total of 250 pages in soft-back, with a CD containing plug-ins, brushes, backgrounds images, demos and even a searchable PDF version of the book. And don't be daunted by the "tech" in the title. It's very friendly, even for beginners, although it will probably make more sense to those with a bit of Photoshop under their belts. There are lots of little tips and techniques in *PTS* that you won't find in other Photoshop titles.

The first chapter outlines in minute detail what you get when you install the program. An exposé of the significant changes in Photoshop 4 follows, particularly adjustment layers and the Actions function. Then it's into memory management, colour modes and file formats. From here it's colour correction, image-editing problems, outputting, and liaising with Illustrator. A final chapter on system errors leads into three appendices dealing with file management, installation file hierarchy and digital prepress.

The authors' extensive Photoshop experience shows through in their solutions-based approach. Avoid problems before they occur rather than clean up later. Avoid memory problems by careful use of RAM Doubler. Avoid image degradation caused by saving a JPEG file over itself. Use Preferences to soften the annoying grey checkerboard Transparency pattern. Avoid output file corruption by using Extensions Manager to create a minimal set for Photoshop. Avoid file-size bloat with the Merge Down command. There's not a word wasted.

The authors focus on the user throughout in an easy-going supportive style, de-jargonised as much as possible. When the terrain gets a bit rough there's always a relevant screen shot to ease the pain. Although there are eight pages of techniques in full colour, the remainder of the examples are greyscale, which doesn't demonstrate colour subtleties satisfactorily.

In *Bots, The Origin of New Species* Andrew Leonard—a Californian technoculture writer—uses Darwinian evolution theory to draw a sometimes compelling parallel between animate and digital life forms. You don't know what a bot is? To most Ozizens it's either a troublesome fly larva or slang for a persistent cadger. The trusty *Macquarie Dictionary*'s entry for bot does not yet include: "3. software

version of a mechanical robot, guided by if/then rules of behaviour; a software process that runs with little or no human supervision". A spelling checker is a simple bot—a mouse-click, and off it scurries to do its appointed task, returning with the result in seconds. An internet search engine is an infinitely more sophisticated example. While most people would never consider these useful chunks of code to be living, Leonard's allegorical style treats bots as quasi-human.

To lend weight to his metaphor, Leonard likens a bot to the daemon of Socrates—a intermediary between humanity and the gods—neither good nor evil. The spice in Leonard's work, however, derives from the uneasy feeling he creates that bots are vaguely evil.


From this historical starting point Leonard follows the evolution of chatterbots, cancelbots and spambots. Then there's collidebots, clonebots and floodbots. We meet Eliza (is she human?), the dreaded wumpus, the infinitely recurring Barney, the mysteriously humanoid Mark V Shaney and the notorious botrunner Int3nSiTY. There's stimulating discussion on artificial intelligence, and its political correction to intelligent agent technology.

A recurring social issue in the book is internet censorship: To what extent do we need protecting from ourselves? And who guards the guards?

Another persistent theme in *Bots* is that each bot produces a counterbot and that this in some way mirrors biological evolution. It goes like this—a net user with a grievance releases a bot which floods an IRC channel or Usenet newsgroup with nasty or meaningless messages. The online community retaliates by swiftly releasing a cancelbot which renders the raider useless. The group may even up the ante with a retaliatory bot of its own. Only the fittest bots survive.

It's not all deadly serious, though. Leonard concedes that these cyberwars are "tame gestures in comparison with real-world violence and social misery," conceding that "nature is not digital".

Although prone to the odd purple passage—"the technodialectic... is only a thin strand of gauze fluttering at the edge of chaos"—Leonard has a free-flowing, elegant style which makes imaginative work of a complicated subject. It's not an easy read and you'll often have to pause and consider.

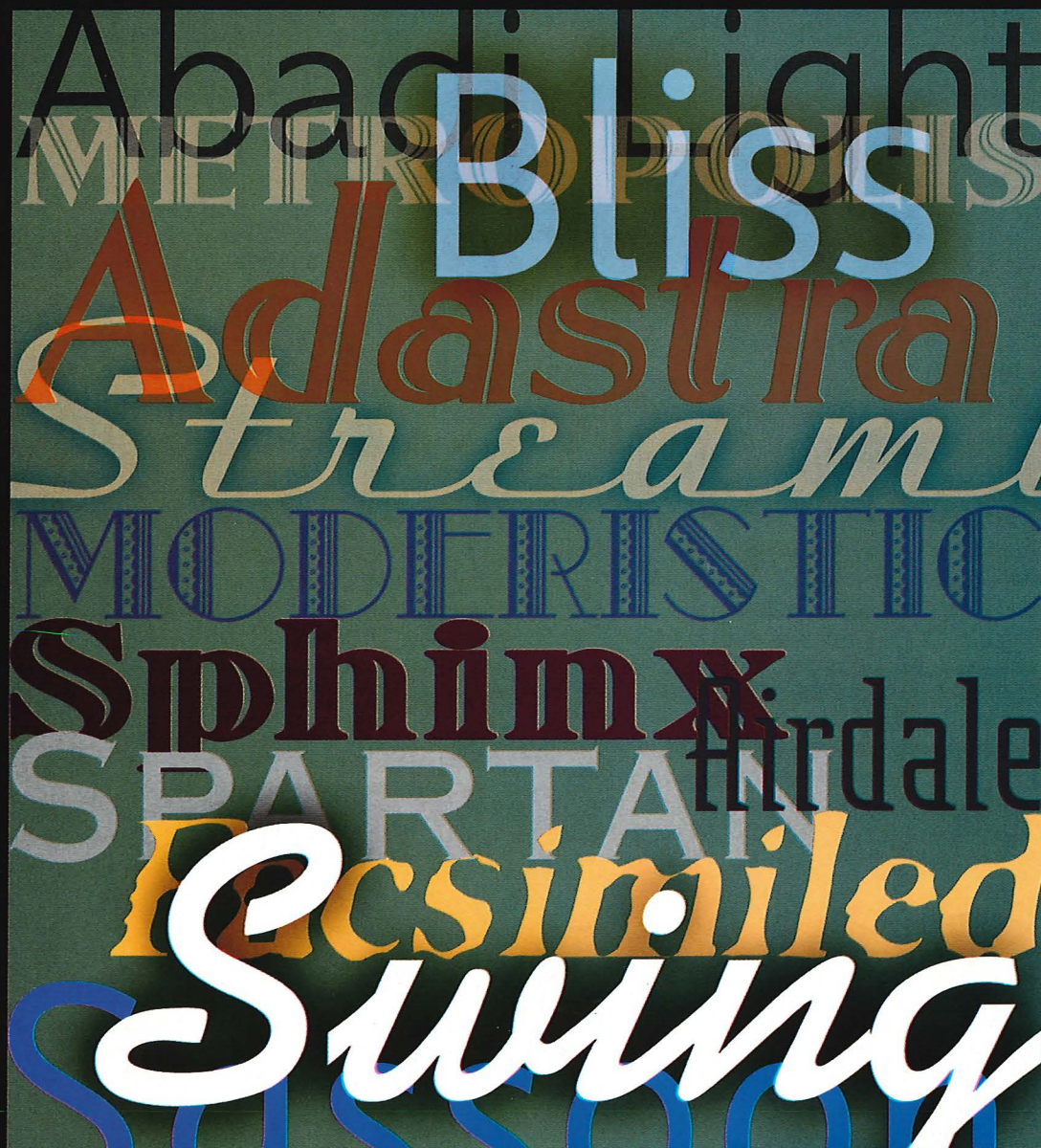
Ultimately, *Bots* is a celebration of the ferment and freedom of the net: "A network is inherently unstable," Leonard writes, "the web... is at no one's beck and call." If you're fascinated by the evolution of the internet, *Bots* will stir your imagination. 

Title	Photoshop Tech Support (inc CD-ROM)
Authors	Ken Oyer, Sean Cavanaugh & Ted Padova
Publisher	IDG Books
ISBN	0 7645 4000 9
RRP	\$59.95

Title	Bots, The Origin of New Species
Authors	Andrew Leonard
Publisher	HardWired
ISBN	1 888869 05 4
RRP	\$39.95

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**WHAT DO
YOU SEE?**

AGFA 
The complete picture.

stop

rumble

with your fonts

Understand your typefaces, then
use these products and techniques
to make them toe the line.

By Michael Priest



ILLUSTRATION: PAT CAMPBELL

ing

Fonts are the life-blood of almost all serious Mac applications. They work intimately with the Mac's system software, yet they're so easy to generate that any half-keen amateur can give it a go. No-one knows how many there are—guesses start at 10–15,000, and rise rapidly. Fortunately, few of us ever have to cope with more than 100. Even bureaus—probably the most voracious font users of all—usually limit themselves to a few thousand.

The principal varieties

Fonts come in four principal varieties; from the oldest to the youngest they are bitmap, PostScript, TrueType and Multiple Master fonts.

Bitmap fonts are the most common. A bitmap is like a grid in which some squares are filled and others are empty. A bitmap font file consists of more than 200 bitmap grids, one for each character (letter, number, symbol) in the font, all at the same point size. Multiple bitmap files for the same font—one for each of the main point sizes—are stored together in a particular kind of folder, called a suitcase. Select a font and its point size when working in a program and your Mac will use the bitmap file that is either closest to the size you chose, or which most easily divides or multiplies to that size. The bitmap font file is primitive, but it contains the font's name, ID number and style details ("Times, ID 20, 9-point italic," for example) that let your computer recognise it, show it on-screen, and print it. So, even though other types of fonts may look better on-screen, it's their bitmap that "hooks" them into the system to start with.

A PostScript font (also called a Type 1 font) usually has two parts: a suitcase of bitmap files, one for each major point size; and a number of PostScript font files, one for each of the font's styles and weights ("bold, condensed", for example). As the PostScript parts use vectors to mathematically describe the outline of each character, they have no particular point size. For the same reason, any PostScript printer can "do the maths" in order to print the PostScript font at the highest resolution of which it is capable. Some

PostScript fonts come with a third part, an AFM file, which contains information about character positioning that is usually stored in PostScript itself.

TrueType fonts are bitmap/vector hybrids. They're not PostScript, but they will show and print smoothly at all resolutions. Their bitmap information is built-in, and the TrueType font files for each typeface family are stored together in the one suitcase. Contrary to popular belief, TrueType and PostScript fonts can quite happily live together on the one Mac—with the proviso that there is only one version, either TrueType or PostScript, of any given font.

The latest variant is the Multiple Master font—an Adobe enhancement of its PostScript font technology. For each Multiple Master font the user may adjust up to three variables in addition to the point size—these are generally the width, the weight, and perhaps a design element such as the size of the serifs. These fonts too come with bitmap files stored in suitcases.

How fonts work with the Mac OS

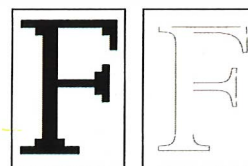
All fonts hook to the system via their font ID number. It's their unique identifier, and as such needs to be treated very seriously indeed. There's an Adobe-maintained register of ID numbers that allocates ranges to different foundries so their fonts don't clash. The "amateur band" is IDs 4,000,00 to 4,999,999 so there's plenty of room to "roll your own".

With System 7.5 and later, the Mac OS recognises fonts whose bitmaps are in the Fonts folder in the System Folder. Normally, all the parts of a font need to be in Fonts folder for them to work properly, but this might not be convenient. If you have a mid-sized collection—say, thirty or forty fonts—there can be a lag as your computers tallies and activates these fonts at start-up or whenever you launch a program. Also, you cannot add or remove fonts without first quitting all open applications, which makes it harder to manually manage your collection or search for a corrupted font. A font-management program can step you around these problems, letting you keep fonts where you want, even running them off a server if desirable.

What problems?

If a font becomes corrupt it can cause problems as benign as not showing up in the Font menu and as malign as quits and crashes. QuarkXPress files seem

continues on page 50



An image file can describe the shape of an object—such as each of the characters within a font—by using vectors, or a bitmap, or both. A bitmap is like a grid in which each square ("pixel") is either black or white (above, left). The number of squares in the grid determines its size at each resolution, so trying to blow a bitmap image up too far creates a blocky "pixelated" effect. A vector image file uses mathematical devices such those provided by the language PostScript to describe the shape of an object at no particular resolution (above, right).



Ten frustrating font problems / causes and solutions

Note, these ten tips are aimed at PostScript fonts, except where noted for TrueType.

ILLUSTRATION: JOHN RITTER
HAND-LETTERING: LILLY LEE

1. Unwanted Courier text

Problem: Bold and italic characters in a Mac file show up as plain Courier when you open the file in Windows even though you were careful to use the same font and version on both platforms.

Cause: If you specify fonts by full name—Bodoni Bold-Italic, for example—the Windows software probably doesn't recognise the names of the styled fonts, because either the names are slightly different or they're not present in the font menu.

Solution: Instead of using named fonts (from the Font menu), apply bold and italic attributes from a styles menu (or with keyboard equivalents). If the font family contains more than the standard four styles, you'll need to know which styles are linked to each other to get predictable results. For Adobe fonts you can get such information from Adobe's Font Name Reference Table (Fntnames.pdf), which you can download from <ftp.adobe.com/pub/adobe/type/all/fntnames.pdf> or from Adobe's \$129 RRP Type On Call CD. You can also set up a test printout to determine which styles are linked for any font.

3 ¹ / ₄	2 ³ / ₄	1 ¹ / ₂
3 ¹ / ₄	2 ³ / ₄	1 ¹ / ₂

Building your own fractions helps with printing across platforms. To keep hand-built fractions from being too light (top row), increase line weight by changing the horizontal scale (width) from 100 to 120 percent (bottom row).

2. Unexpected characters

Problem: The *fi* and *fl* ligatures in your Mac file appear as other characters when you send the file to a Windows computer. Or you find that fractions in a Windows file become other characters when you open the file on your Mac.

Cause: These character changes arise because standard Mac and Windows fonts have different character sets. The most notorious examples are the *fi* and *fl* ligatures in Mac fonts and three fractions—¹/₄, ¹/₂, and ³/₄—in Windows fonts.

Solution: If you only need to read or print the file, either provide a PostScript print file or use Adobe Acrobat Distiller to make a PDF file (both of which include the fonts as well as any graphics).

If the file must be editable and it contains ligatures but not fractions, try using a font that has an expert set. Or choose a typeface that doesn't require ligatures—

Sabon or Palatino, for example. Look for a typeface whose *f* doesn't project so far that it collides with the dot of the *i* or the top of the *l*.

Fractions are more difficult, but you have a couple of choices. You can use one of the two sets of fraction fonts from Adobe that work identically across platforms: Helvetica and New Century Schoolbook. Otherwise, build fractions by hand using the superscript and subscript functions in your desktop-publishing software. Hand-built fractions are likely to be lighter looking than surrounding text and are tedious to make, but they travel with the file.

3. Crashes, rough characters, and other anomalies

Problem: You experience rough bitmaps on screen, a program warns that a font is unavailable, or fonts are substituted in a printout—especially in conjunction with otherwise unexplained freezes and crashes while launching an application or opening a file.

Cause: You may have a damaged font. Font corruption can be maddeningly hard to diagnose because these same symptoms could indicate an extension conflict, a damaged copy of Adobe Type Manager (ATM), an inadequate ATM font or character cache, a shortage of RAM, or a damaged document or software program.

Solution: If you suspect a damaged screen font, the most pragmatic approach is simply to reinstall the fonts from the source floppies or CD. If you're still unsure whether your problem stems from a bad font, you might want to get a program such as Font Box.

4. Deceiving damage reports

Problem: You ran the Verify or Report function in ATM Deluxe 4.0 and it closed most of your fonts from Monotype Typography, reporting that they were damaged. Or Alsoft's MasterJuggler flags some TrueType printer fonts as missing. Yet you had been using the fonts with no problems before running the tests.

Cause: ATM is misreading some technical font data, or MasterJuggler thinks that some of your TrueType fonts are PostScript and so reports a missing printer font.

Solution: Ignore the reports—there's nothing wrong with the fonts. Since ATM won't let you use the fonts once it has disabled them, however, you must delete the suitcases from ATM's Known Fonts list and then re-add them. So long as you don't try to run Verify or Report on them, they should work fine.

5. Unavailable font

Problem: Another user working at a different Mac sends you a file and you get an alert from the font-mapping utility in QuarkXPress or Adobe PageMaker that the font isn't available, even though you're sure you both used the same font.

Cause: It's likely that you and the other user have different versions of the font. Most foundries have revised their libraries over the years to improve the outlines, fix bugs or errors, or change the names. As a rule of thumb, any font created before the mid-1990s may have been revised. Adobe's Font Name Reference Table PDF on the Type On Call CD lists all the name changes to the Adobe

kerfluffle kerfluffle
stiff stiff
sufficient sufficient

If you don't use ligatures, don't choose a font like Adobe Garamond, which has an f that will collide with i and l. The left text is without ligatures; the right is with.

library. That's good news, but the profusion of versions is confusing.

Solution: Tell the font-mapping dialogue box to substitute the unknown font in the file with its counterpart on your system. It's also a good idea to contact the font companies—most offer inexpensive or free upgrades.

6. Missing bold or italic

Problem: Plain type prints out on a PostScript printer even though you applied bold or italic styles that showed up on screen.

Cause: You probably specified styles that are not linked to the plain font, styles with no printer font, or styles for which the printer font is missing or corrupted.

Solution: Make sure there's a printer font for the style you're using. If there is, determine whether the font you're trying to embolden or italicise is actually linked to these styles. If you need styles that don't exist, consider choosing a different font family.

7. Altered spacing

Problem: Type in some printouts appears oddly spaced.

Cause: You may have used a TrueType font that was output to a PostScript printer that had the PostScript counterpart on its raster image processor. In that case, the PostScript font would be automatically used instead of the TrueType version, and the two formats might have slightly different character widths and spacing.

You may also get odd spacing if the file contains the Mac's TrueType screen fonts Geneva, New York, or Monaco, or if a Windows file contains Arial or Times New Roman. The PostScript printer automatically substitutes Helvetica, Times Roman, or Courier, adjusting the spacing to retain the line breaks in your original.

Solution: Avoid using TrueType versions in files if you suspect your printer is substituting PostScript fonts.

8. Missing word spaces

Problem: Sometimes the space between words seems to disappear, particularly when you use some of the Adobe "original" fonts that are tightly spaced by design, such as Adobe Garamond or Myriad MM.

Cause: This problem arises when the kerning pairs for the characters on either side of a word space are large enough to eat up the word space. For example, in one of these fonts, if you have a sentence whose last word ends in y followed by one that begins with W, the word space is reduced.

Solution: Change the kerning, either manually in the file

wherever you see a problem, or by using a kern-editing utility—for example, Agfa KernEdit (which comes free with PageMaker). Changing kerning is complicated in Multiple Master fonts. You must reduce the kerning value in all the master fonts. It's often easier just to fix any problems that occur in the file.

9. EPS turns to Courier

Problem: You place an EPS file in a page-layout document, and the fonts print out in Courier.

Cause: The appropriate fonts are not being automatically downloaded to the printer.

Solution: Manually download the EPS font to the printer or imagesetter before outputting the file. For logos or other graphics that are used by many people outside your control, convert the fonts to paths in Adobe Illustrator or Macromedia FreeHand. These elements become vector graphics that will print correctly to any PostScript printing device. This works best with large type—small type looks bolder and can be hard to read.

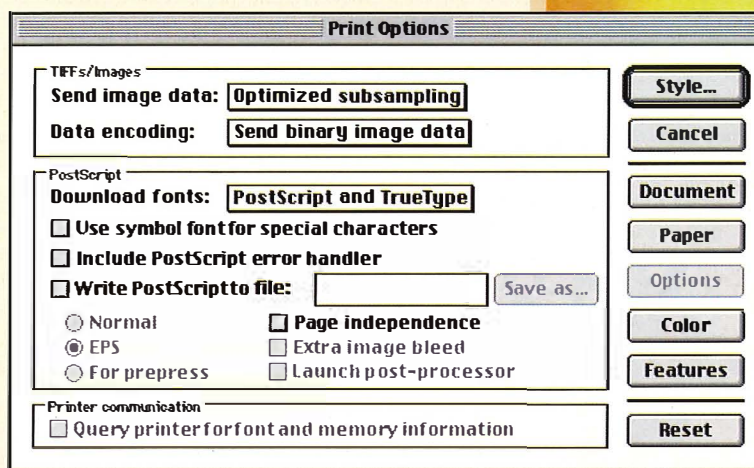
10. PageMaker symbol mix-up

Problem: Occasionally you find the wrong symbol character in a PageMaker printout: characters such as ©, ®, or ™ print in the wrong typeface, or you get a symbol character like pi (π) when you had selected an ornament.

Cause: The culprit is often the default option Use Symbol Font For Special Characters in PageMaker's Print Options dialogue box. This setting determines whether the characters designed in a font will print or be replaced by a generic character from the Symbol font. The setting applies to an entire document (or all the pages printed as one job), not to a particular font.

Solution: Turn the option off. If you want to use Symbol or another symbol font, you should apply those fonts explicitly to selected text. Then it should print correctly, regardless.

— Kathleen Tinkel

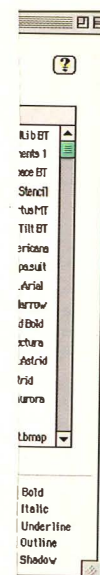


Avoid unwanted character substitution by making sure the Use Symbol Font For Special Characters option in PageMaker's Print Options dialogue box is not checked. Then, if you want to use Symbol or another symbol font, apply those fonts explicitly to selected text.

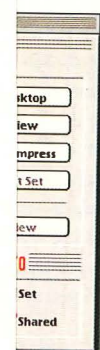
software for font users / ratings and features

Rating	Product	Availability	Management features	Diagnostic/repair features
1 1/2	Crystal Reality's Font Clerk 6.02	\$US20 shareware from <www.creality.com>.	Comprehensively samples fonts and lists technical details, on-screen or in print.	none
Font Clerk is a thorough sampler with a good-looking but window-heavy interface.				
1 1/2	NikRom's Type Indexer 2.04	\$80 RRP, distributed by TryQuest: 03 9523 0748, fax 03 9523 0749.	Prints highly customisable font-sample sheets.	Won't crash with corrupted fonts (just doesn't print sample).
Type Indexer is a fast, stable and customisable sample-sheet generator.				
1 1/2	Adobe Type Manager Deluxe 4.0	\$149 RRP, distributed by Adobe Systems Australia: 02 9418 8499, fax 02 9418 8489, <www.adobe.com>.	Manages sets and suitcases with drag-and-drop support, creates sample sheets.	Identifies conflicts, can import and export font ID lists.
ATM is a font-management utility with a good interface and a sample-sheet generator.				
1 1/2	Insider Software's Font Box 2.6	\$189 RRP, distributed by TechTools Australia: 02 9211 7194, fax 02 9211 7270.	none	Checks for duplicate fonts or font IDs, corrupt fonts, unnecessary bitmap sizes and missing resources, then repairs or moves to Trash as requested.
Font Box is a thorough font-diagnosis/repair program that is best left in manual mode.				
1 1/2	Morrison SoftDesign's Font Doctor 2.02	\$149 RRP, distributed by Trio Technology: 07 5577 4411, fax 07 5577 4455, <www.triotech.com.au>.	none	Checks for duplicate fonts or font IDs, corrupt fonts, unnecessary bitmap sizes and missing resources, then repairs or moves to Trash as requested.
Font Doctor is a thorough font-diagnosis/repair program that is best left in manual mode.				
1 1/2	Symantec Suitcase 3.0	\$99 RRP, distributed by Dataflow: 02 9417 9700, fax 02 9417 9797, <www.dataflow.com.au>.	Manages sets and suitcases with drag-and-drop support, creates sample sheets, manages sound resources, compresses fonts under management.	Identifies conflicts, can import and export font ID lists.
Suitcase is a stable font-management utility with an interface nearly as good as ATM's.				
1 1/2	Alsoft's MasterJuggler Pro	\$129 RRP, distributed by PICA Software: 03 9388 9588, 03 9388 9788, <www.pica.com.au>.	Manages sets and suitcases with drag-and-drop support, creates sample sheets, manages sound and F-Key resources, compresses fonts under management.	Checks for duplicate fonts or font IDs, corrupt fonts and missing resources, and can resolve ID conflicts automatically if requested.
MasterJuggler is a font-management utility with a clunky interface but a full feature set, implemented in part by separate bundled applications.				
1 1/2	French & French's Font Corral 2.0	\$US74 shareware from <www.fontcorral.com>.	Gathers fonts used in XPress documents from the Collect report.	none
Font Corral is a font-management utility for QuarkXPress users who are gathering the parts of a document for output.				
1 1/2	Font Expert 1.0	\$210 RRP, distributed by Techflow: 1 800 500 650, fax 02 9982 3623, <www.techflow.com.au>.	none	Identifies fonts by family, weight and style from high-res scanned samples.
Font Expert is an easy-to-use font-recognition program with a large database and fair accuracy.				
1 1/2	Ed Hopkins' Font Manager 3.7	\$US10 shareware from <www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/1870/>.	Manages sets and suitcases by moving them about, but you need to reboot between changes.	none
Font Manager is an inexpensive font-management utility that is not as convenient as the commercial options.				
1 1/2	Adobe Type Reunion 2.0	\$95 RRP, distributed by Adobe Systems Australia: 02 9418 8499, fax 02 9418 8489, <www.adobe.com>.	Groups fonts into sub-menus under the Font menu according to family or user-set criteria, can display fonts in the Font menu with their own typeface.	none
TR is a narrowly purposed font utility that usually works well but can cause system crashes when used with incompatible applications.				

Products are listed alphabetically within groups of equal mouse rating.



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new suitcases—on a removable cartridge, say—into which you can manually copy your bitmaps and save the PostScript files. MasterJuggler lets you copy fonts to a new location from within its window, doing the dirty work out in the open. Font Corral, a shareware application, gathers fonts from the reports generated by QuarkXPress's Collect function, which is very handy indeed.

So, what font was that, again?

Okay, you've now got your fonts neatly sorted, saved and suitcased, and ATM, MasterJuggler or Suitcase are opening and closing them like clockwork. But which font do you open?

The old stand-by for investigating what fonts look like is Key Caps, installed with the Mac OS, under the Apple menu. However, picking fonts using Key Caps is like sucking pizza through a straw, so here's some of the many shareware and commercial alternatives:

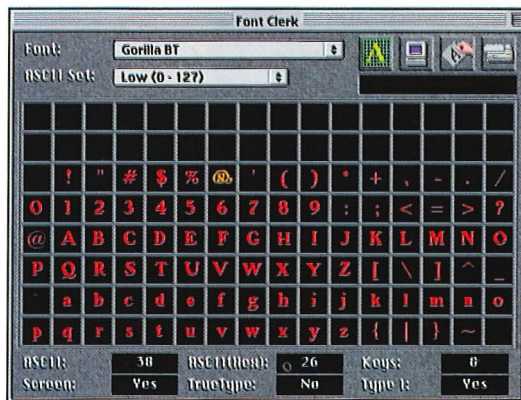
ATM, MasterJuggler and Suitcase can all quickly show screen renditions of different typefaces. ATM's sample is the most comprehensive as it shows all the character set at different sizes. The other two simply show a single (editable) line. MasterJuggler and ATM also let you print these samples for a hard copy.

Type Indexer is a dedicated sampler that can print typefaces, even if they're not currently active. Its sample sheets are customisable, showing between one and sixty fonts on each page. It's fast and manages large numbers of fonts with ease—in testing it processed 1500 fonts through a relatively RAM-poor laser printer without problem, a task that can get the better of some other programs.

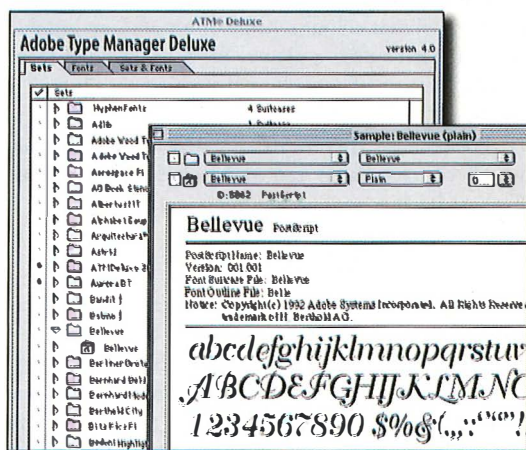
Like ATM, Adobe Type Reunion (ATR) was originally a one-trick application: it combines all the fonts in a family into a submenu (for example, roman, bold, italic and bold italic) which pops-up from a single entry in the Font menu. The result is one entry for Garamond, say, rather than separate entries for Garamond bold, Garamond italic and so on. With the release of ATR Deluxe 2.0, however, this program can also create arbitrary groupings for these submenus, and display each font in its own typeface in the Font menu. ATR can be a mixed blessing, however. In testing it did what it says it will do, but it also caused more than one severe crash. Perhaps this is why ATR can be set to be deactivated for individual applications.

Identifying fonts

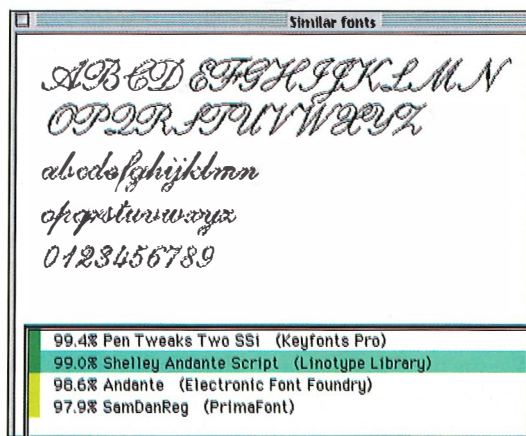
Last, what do you do when a client points to a snappy new magazine and says "this is the typeface I want"? If you're like most of us you leap to the type books and charts, but you'd need a good dollop of luck to succeed this way regularly. This is the problem that Font Expert seeks to solve. Scan a font at high resolution, tell Font Expert which letters are which, and it will look for a match in its "intelligent database" of thousands of typefaces from nearly fifty foundries. The engine is easy to use, and its reports are easy to understand—green is a positive match, yellow is a probable match and red is a fail. In testing, Font Expert returned a correct positive



Amongst Font Clerk's features is the ability to display the characters in a font.



Adobe Type Manager 4.0 can create font sets and display font samples in addition to the earlier versions' abilities.



Font Expert compares a sample font to its "intelligent database" and then rates likely matches according to probability.

match about two-thirds of the time with samples generated in Photoshop. It seems to work best on the more traditional fonts, and can correctly identify the foundry, weight and style of a font in addition to its name. Even if it can't positively identify a sample, its "probable" guesses can point you in the right direction. ☞

Michael Priest has been known to come out of movies unable to name the actors or summarise the plot, but able to identify all the typefaces used in the titles and credits.

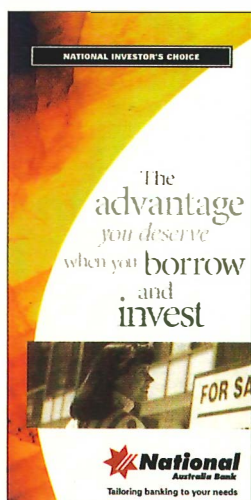


Words, words, words



By David Whitbread

Sorting the selling words from the rest of the text.



The cover of this National Australia Bank leaflet has been designed to highlight key selling words: **advantage, borrow and invest.**

Just 1.2 seconds. According to some recent sources, that's all the time you've got to seduce your potential customer with a piece of printed matter. At 1.3 seconds, they've turned the page, zoomed past your billboard, passed the bus; or their attention has been drawn to a competing message.

Okay, let's say we are happy with our ability to grab someone's attention with an arresting graphic image, a vibrant colour scheme or a stand-out graphic pattern. That's used a glance. How do we land them within the rest of our allotted time so they'll stay a while?

Presumably, they were attracted to your graphic which you accurately targeted to the audience most likely to be interested in your message.

A second glance

Then you have to generate further interest, and this is most often done with words.

This is still the seduction phase, despite its brevity. But we usually need to use more words than anyone can possibly read in the remaining time. So, think about the mode of attention these potential readers are using. They are still skimming and dipping, like a hummingbird, hovering over your message.

They are skimming words too. The words they need to find are signposts to the greater ideas contained within. We use headings as signposts in text. But they're not into the text yet, they're still hovering.

Marketers understand that words like *you* and *new* are good attractors. But, for determining ultimate interest (and therefore, landing rights), there are certain words in a headline that work harder than others. Your reader should be able to find these and find them fast.

Type

We can use type variation to allow certain words in a headline to be found quickly. They can be larger, in a different colour or typeface, positioned more prominently, or basking in more space.

By finding key words and making them jump out, you are encouraging cross-reading: reading out of sequence. Most writers care about their words being presented in the correct order and do not appreciate cross-readings. But cross-reading communicates faster. If successful, it can encourage readers to delve further into the author's text.

These graphic techniques enable you to keep reading continuously, as authors usually desire, but also help "attractive" words jump out and trap us.

Text analysis

Our language is cluttered with words of less importance. So how do you analyse a piece of text to find

the individual words with the greatest ability to attract?

Let's look at the positioning statement for the Loud festival: "Loud: Australia's first national media festival of youth culture and the arts".

The most important word is the name of the festival, *Loud*. The three least important words are *of*, *and* and *the*.

We almost have a tautology with the use of both *Australia's* and *national*, but why would you keep both? Because *national* implies that the festival is big and encompassing, not just a localised festival that occurs somewhere in Australia. The fact that posters and advertising are placed pretty much exclusively in Australia seems to indicate that both words are less important in the scheme of things, however.

Now who cares that it's the *first* festival? It could communicate that it's an exciting development and *new* (in the marketer's parlance), so it's okay.

But really, the first three words after *Loud* are not giving people information they need to decide their potential involvement in the festival.

Media festival is important: *media* because it defines where the festival is taking place (in media events); *festival* because it defines the product.

Youth culture is equally important because it defines the audience for participation and involvement. *Arts* is less important because it is considered a subset of 'culture'.

So, in analysing an eleven-word positioning statement, we find only four words that need to jump out: *media, festival, youth* and *culture*. An easy way to isolate them is to use well-chosen line breaks that place these words at the beginning of a line:

*Loud: Australia's first national
media festival of
youth culture and the arts*

There are many other more interesting techniques for making these words jump out. But remember, the whole sequence should be readable, so those who have stopped hovering and landed on your message can get the full message.

Graphic treatments

Some designs give undue emphasis to the least important words. In book titles, the words *and*, *is*, *with*, *the* and *of* are sometimes enlarged to fill out a line and give it definition, unduly emphasising these less important words in the process. These words should not be in fluorescent ink or foil. Rather, they should be relegated to the background. ☒

David Whitbread is a publications designer and head of graphic design at the University of Canberra. His email address is <duw@design.canberra.edu.au>.

Wutupdo, GF

housetRAined HS

agency FB

monkey, CAUGHT stealing GF

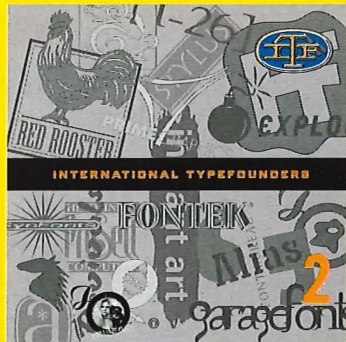
terminal T-26

pelican MVD

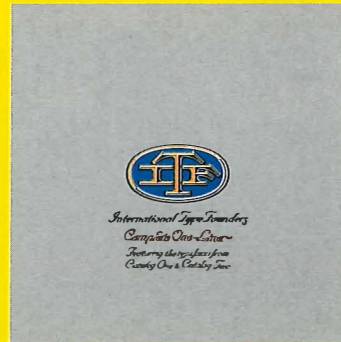
flux T-26

out of the fridge. FTK

(It all makes sense, once you get our new books.)



ITF's new Catalog Two, with thousands of weird and wonderful fonts.



The equally new, and possibly more valuable, ITF One-Liner index.

The typefaces above are just some of the thousands featured in the new ITF Catalog Two. It comes with two ITF CD-ROMS containing all the fonts from ITF Catalogs One and Two; over 10,000 faces from 50 foundries. Equally important, is ITF's new One-Liner index, which covers all the faces in both Catalogs. The One-Liner is available as a separate item or with the ITF CD's and Catalogs. As you can see from even the small selection here,

these two new books are just what you need to maintain your lead in type and creativity. And once you install the encrypted CDs on your system, you can get a password from us which will allow you to purchase and unlock the required fonts. To order the ITF One-Liner and/or Catalogs One and Two, call the Font Shop on 1800 622 050, or fax 1800 627 090, now. Tarantula, Gargoyle, Green Terror and the Electric Weasel are waiting to hear from you.

FONTshop

Flashfixes

How to cope
when a flashing
question mark
appears at
start-up.

by Ted Landau

Over the past year, there has been an outbreak of new and virulent strains of flashing-question-mark problems. A disk icon with a flashing question mark inside it at start-up is a familiar—and sometimes ominous—sign to veteran Macintosh users. It means your Mac can't start up because it doesn't recognise your start-up disk.

In the worst case, fixing the question-mark problem requires that you reformat your hard disk. Fortunately, most of the time the situation is not that serious, and you can get quick recovery with one of the standard fixes. These fixes won't work, though, if you fall victim to one of the new causes. Here's how to prevent and recover from these new dangers.

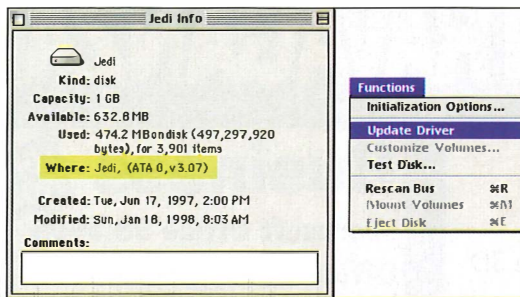
Danger: updating the Mac OS

If you have a Power Mac 54xx, 64xx, 65xx (or a similarly designed Power Computing, Motorola, or Umax clone), and you recently updated to Mac OS 8.0, you may be vulnerable to a particularly nasty version of the flashing-question-mark problem. It happens only occasionally, and only after a cold start (a start-up after having turned your Mac off, as opposed to a restart with the power on). Apple's temporary advice has been to never turn off your Mac, although restarting (a warm start) is fine.

Just to make life more interesting, the symptom is sometimes reversed: the question mark appears only on warm starts. In this case, a temporary remedy is to turn the Mac off and start up cold.

Cure: You can do better than either of those temporary remedies. Although standard disk-repair utilities—such as Disk First Aid or Norton Utilities—won't work, updating the right software will.

The software in question is Drive Setup 1.3, the version of Apple's hard-disk-formatting utility that shipped with Mac OS 8.0. You're at risk if you update your disk driver or reformat your hard disk with this



If your hard disk's Get Info window (left) says you have an IDE disk, make sure you update your disk driver with Drive Setup 1.3.1 or later (right). ATA in the highlighted line shown above means you have an IDE hard disk.

version of Drive Setup and you have a desktop Mac with an IDE disk. (If you're not sure whether your disk is of the IDE variety, select the disk's icon by clicking it once in the Finder, then select Get Info from the File menu. If ATA appears in the text following the sub-heading "Where:", you've got an IDE hard disk.)

To prevent this problem, simply get Drive Setup 1.3.1 (or later). You can get the file from ftp.apple.com.au/pub/asu/macintosh/utilities/. To fix your drive, select Update Driver from Drive Setup's Functions menu.

Be careful if you ever reinstall Mac OS 8.0. The Mac OS Install utility is set to downgrade your driver back to version 1.3 of Drive Setup. To prevent this, click on the Options button and uncheck Update Apple Hard Disk Drivers. Mac OS 8.1 comes with Drive Setup 1.4, which shouldn't have the same problems as version 1.3.

The problems with Drive Setup 1.3 are just the latest in a series of similar problems that have plagued recent versions of Drive Setup. For example, using Drive Setup 1.2.2 (the version that shipped with Mac OS 7.6) could also lead to a flashing question mark at start-up. Again, updating Drive Setup should solve the problem.

Drive Setup is not the only utility known to cause flashing-question-mark problems. Hard Disk ToolKit, a disk utility from FWB (see page 27), can also precipitate this symptom. However, it only happens if you use it to partition your hard disk and only if you have certain IDE disks (manufactured by Seagate and Western Digital) found primarily in Power Mac 7220s and StarMax clones. At first, the problem was reported to be specific to Hard Disk ToolKit versions 2.0.x, and updating to version 2.5 was supposed to remedy the situation. More recently, a statement from FWB implies that even version 2.5 may not completely stamp out this bug.

Danger: 1.2GB hard disks

If you have a Power Mac or Performa model 5260, 54xx, or 6360, and it came with a 1.2GB hard disk, the disk may have faulty firmware (special code that's written to the drive at the factory and that you normally can't erase by reformatting). The same problem crops up with similar PowerBase models from Power Computing. The firmware of the problem disks contains a bug that can lead to the flashing-question-mark symptom.

Cure: Update the firmware via Apple's 1.2GB Firmware Utility from ftp.apple.com.au/pub/asu/macintosh/utilities/. If this bug bites you before you apply the update, you may have to replace the hard disk.

Danger: waking from sleep

After putting your desktop Mac to sleep, you wake it up and find that the Mac is "frozen". Not too alarmed, you do a forced restart of the Mac (typically by holding down the command, control and power keys). Usually this gets things working fine again. However, this time the infamous flashing question mark greets you at start-up. The cause is yet another hard-disk firmware problem, this time with certain 2GB, 3GB, 4GB, or 6GB hard disks that shipped with some Power Macs and Performas.

Cure: Apple's solution is once again a utility to fix the bug: 2-3-4-6 GB Firmware Utility, from ftp.apple.com.au/pub/asu/macintosh/utilities/.

Danger: password protection

If you use Apple's At Ease software, beware of updating your disk driver while At Ease's password protection is on. Ignore this advice, and you may be greeted with a flashing question mark next time you start-up.

Cure: The workaround is simple enough: turn off At Ease's password protection before updating your disk driver. Apple does not have a fix for this yet. However, if you encounter this problem, Apple has advice on how to get your hard disk working again. For more details, check Apple's Tech Info Library File #22101, at til.info.apple.com/techinfo.nsf/artnum/N22101.

Stay on the alert

I suspect this is not the end of the flashing-question-mark saga. New causes and new solutions are likely to crop up in the months ahead. To stay up-to-date on the latest developments, check out Apple's Tech Exchange web page, at support.info.apple.com/te/te.qry, or drop by my MacFixIt web site, at www.macfixit.com.

Ted Landau runs the MacFixIt web site.

Quick tips / cures for the common question mark

Here are five time-tested cures that have brought relief to Macintosh users plagued by the flashing question mark. For a longer list, check out www.macfixit.com/reports/macbible7-2.html. If none of these fixes, including those in the main article, work, you may need to reformat your hard disk or get a new one.

- 1. "Re-bless" the System Folder**
Start up your Macintosh with an alternate disk (typically a bootable floppy disk or CD-ROM). Then, if the icon for your original start-up disk appears on the desktop, back up your critical files, open the start-up disk's System Folder and remove the System file. Last, close the System Folder and put the System file back in the System Folder.
- 2. Zap the PRAM**
Hold down command-option-P-R at start-up until your Mac restarts twice. Then release the keys and let start-up proceed.
- 3. Run Disk First Aid**, which is on your Mac OS installer disk.
- 4. Use Symantec's Norton Utilities** (\$129 RRP, Dataflow, 02 9417 9700, fax 02 9417 9797) or an equivalent product to check the disk.
- 5. Reinstall your system software.**

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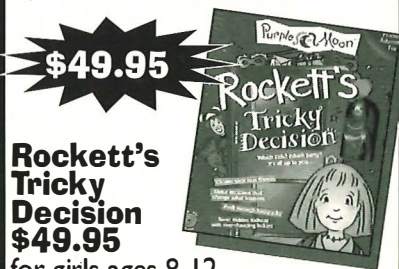
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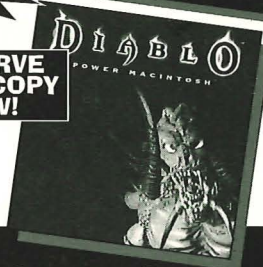
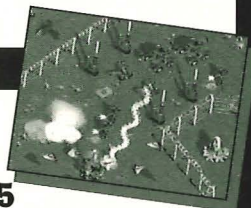
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ReViews

	Claudine Teaches French	Easy Language Conversational Skills	Français 1
Type:	Language education		
Rating:	★★★★ 1/2	★★★★ 1/2	★★★★
RRP:	\$59.95	\$89.95	\$335.00
Publisher:	Smarty Pants	IMSI	Fairfield Language Technologies
Distributor:	Scholastic New Media	Dataflow	Techflow
Telephone:	02 4328 3555	02 9417 9700	02 9971 4311
Facsimile:	02 4328 2205	02 9417 9797	02 9982 3623
Reviewer:	Keith White		

RATING KEY

Outstanding	★★★★★
Very Good	★★★★
Good	★★★
Flawed	★★
Unacceptable	★
Dangerous	☹

Three French tutors

SPEAK DIFFERENT

The best way to learn another language? Get a teacher. Although your Mac is very patient and knowledgeable, in the drill and practice of vocabulary and grammar it lacks the human intelligence to deal with subtleties of thought and expression. Despite recent improvements in multimedia technology which have narrowed the gap between the teacher and the machine, computer-based language instruction is still best used as an introduction to a language or as supplementary support material.

With this proviso, let's take a look at three different French-language packages aimed at specific sections of the market.

CDs for children

Claudine teaches French is produced by the Melbourne-based Smarty Pants <www.smartypantsco.com> subsidiary of Beam International. Claudine is one in a series of 10 Languages for Kids CDs, which are recommended for students at the Beginning Languages stage of the Australian National Educational Profiles. In the \$69.95 Teachers' Edition there are 50 pages of notes covering everything a teacher or parent could want in the way of explanatory and supplementary materials.

The package uses the immersion technique—hear, learn and use the language without formalised grammar instruction—and suits ages five to nine. Claudine is a cute French-speaking cartoon character who leads the young student through a fun series of animated activities. There are six topics: alphabet, numbers, animals, backpack (what's in it), happy birthday and songs, all in three levels of difficulty. Voices, music and animations are of the highest quality and the interface is simple and consistent. A context-sensitive dictionary and Help screens in English are only a click away at all times. Activities are totally in French and totally absorbing. Students can play against the computer (*l'ordinateur*) or against other students.

Claudine will have them thinking in French in *un instant*.

Conversation skills

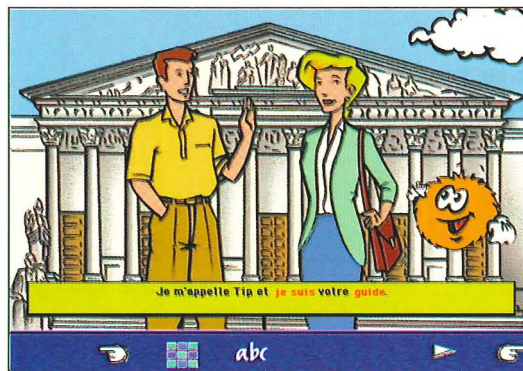
Moving on to Easy Language Conversation Skills, which emphasises the spoken language, we find a series of 10 topics centred around daily activities such as introductions, work, hobbies, food, shopping and travel; the one CD also contains courses in Spanish, German and English covering the same scenarios. Each topic has nine varied and interesting activities to introduce and consolidate the topic material. The

Our reviewers evaluate, rigorously test and give detailed assessments of new release software and hardware. For brief reviews, turn to page 21.

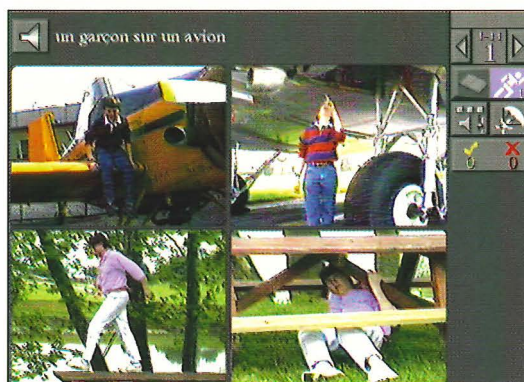
Three French tutors



Claudine leads children through a 100-percent French interface in her CD in *Smarty Pants' Languages for Kids* series.



Travel is one the themes around which *Easy Language Conversation Skills* is structured.



Each chapter of *Français 1* contains 10 screens of four photos; clicking the microphone icon records your pronunciation so you can compare it with that of a native speaker.

student gets to match words with objects on the screen, assemble random words into a sentence, or fill in the gaps. Each topic has a substantial dialogue in which the student can take part, recording appropriate responses and playing them back. Grammar notes are provided for test activities.

High-quality illustrations set the scene accompanied by clear sound bites from native speakers. Help is always available in the form of Tip, the funky cartoon guide. Learners can toggle spoken instructions between English or French. To sharpen listening skills, text can be removed from the screen. Navigation is effortless and the next step is always highlighted. There's even a guided tour at the start.

The package is lots of fun and a useful introduction to the art of French conversation.

Serious study

Last is *Français 1*, in the Rosetta Stone Language Library series. At a serious price of \$335, this package offers 90 rather austere chapters containing basic French grammatical structures and a vocabulary of 1100 words. The creators style *Français 1* as a self-contained language course suitable for a first-year university course or two years at high-school level.


Each chapter contains ten screens of four photos. Material is presented through two basic modes of operation. In Browser Mode the student learns words and phrases from a screen of photos with optional text and voice. Clicking the microphone icon records student pronunciation to compare with that of a native speaker.

Once the lesson material has been experienced it's into Run Mode, which tests the student via 12 different combinations of picture, text and voice. In Dictation the student hears a phrase and keys in the corresponding text. In Run Mode the (optional) scoring is active with four points for a first-try correct down to one point at the fourth attempt.

Tutorial combines Run Modes to test the student on missed questions.

A setup screen allows customisation of sounds, icons, timing and test items. Navigation is smooth and intuitive. The photographic material is generally high-quality and unambiguous. The voice bites are clear and authentic. Is it worth the price tag? Download sample chapters from <www.trstone.com> and decide for yourself.

The bottom line

Each of these titles requires a minimum 68040 processor, system 7.0/7.1, 256 colours, a microphone, a 2x CD-ROM drive and 8MB of physical RAM (16MB on a PowerPC). All are of a relatively high standard, but none can take the place of human teacher. Which you choose will depend on your abilities, goals and preferred learning style. 

Keith White has spent over two decades coaxing young Australians to abandon, if only until the bell rings, their mother tongue.


AT A GLANCE

Pros

Claudine: thoughtfully designed and faultlessly presented; a painless way to introduce a young student to French. **Easy Conversation:** colourful and easy to use; a useful introduction to the spoken language for high-school students or travellers; the CD also contains courses in Spanish, German and English covering the same scenarios. **Français 1:** quality materials; well presented; useful for serious students looking to gain a no-nonsense grounding in French vocabulary, pronunciation and grammar.

Cons

Claudine: the immersion technique may not suit all students. **Easy Conversation:** the dialogues are too long for beginners. **Français 1:** traditional grammatical approach which younger students may find rather dry; expensive.

Virex 5.8.1
Type: Antivirus software
Rating: 
RRP: \$99.95
Publisher: Dr Solomon's Software
Distributor: PICA Software
Telephone: 03 9388 9588
Facsimile: 03 9388 9788
Reviewer: Stephan Somogyi

VirusScan 3.0

 \$69.95
 Network Associates
 Network Associates
 02 9437 5866
 02 9439 5166

Virex and VirusScan

TWO ANTIVIRUS PROGRAMS

Next to hard-disk mishaps, computer viruses are among the most pernicious things that can affect your Macintosh. But although both afflictions seem to be out of our immediate control, virus infections are preventable with a combination of common sense and the right antivirus software.

Two competing products offer basic protection from viruses, but with different levels of supplemental features and Mac OS integration. Veteran Macintosh antivirus package Virex, which was recently acquired by Dr Solomon's Software to replace that company's original minimalist Macintosh offering, continues to offer the best features of currently available products. Alternatively, VirusScan for the Macintosh, from Network Associates, offers a no-frills package that consists of the standard application and extension duo, with few bells and whistles and a puzzling interface.

A virus bestiary

On the PC platform, the pace of new-virus discovery is positively frantic. In the Macintosh realm, things have been comparatively sedate. Mac-specific viruses are rare beasts, and many Mac users have become lax in their safe-computing habits. Consequently, well-known viruses reappear occasionally within companies and online communities.

Although Disinfectant, freeware from <charlotte.at.nwu.edu/jln/progs.ssi>, offers a perfectly adequate solution for Mac-specific viruses, a new breed of virus has been leaping over the great platform divide. So-called macro viruses are all the rage on the PC, and with the increasing desire for cross-platform file compatibility, PC-born macro viruses can affect Mac users as well.

Many programs contain macro languages that let users add custom features specific to individual documents—a useful option. But any time you can attach code to a document or application, there's the opportunity for abuse. Both Microsoft Word and Excel let macros automatically run when a document is opened—without offering you a chance to say anything about it—a weak link that led to the current spate of macro-virus infestation. It's quite possible to encounter a multiplatform macro virus, and even if such a virus is harmful only on a PC, infected documents making a stopover on a Mac can still act as carriers.

Microsoft Word 98 and Excel 98—both part of the recently released Office 98 for Macintosh—each

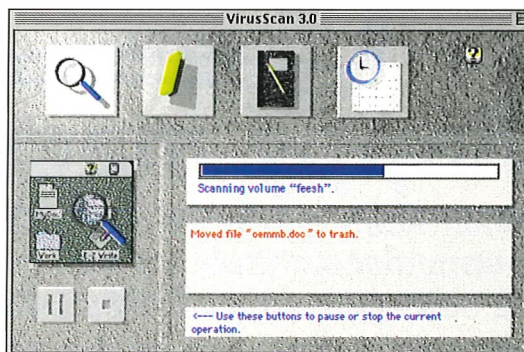
sport a “macro-virus protection” preference that detects whether a document contains a self-launching macro and allows you to prevent the macro from being run. Although Microsoft has taken the right first step, there's no way for Word or Excel—or you—to know the intentions of any macro. This is where antivirus software comes in.

Covering all the bases

Virex 5.8.1 includes an application that scans and repairs and a control panel that provides prevention as well as scan-and-repair features. The straightforward application displays its options in a button bar along the top of its main window; the behaviour of this window's left pane, which contains the list of available volumes, is the program's sole user-interface irritation. Clicking on a volume toggles its selection on or off; as a result, there's no simple way to select one volume without first having to manually deselect all the others.

Virex offers several scan-and-repair approaches. The first time you scan a volume, the program scans all its files—optionally including the contents of most compressed files—and remembers each scanned file. Any subsequent time that same volume is scanned, Virex will first check to see whether a file has changed before performing a time-consuming re-examination. Since rescans are quick, you're less likely to dread the process of regularly scanning and therefore more likely to catch infected files sooner.

Virex's control panel contains the same scan-and-repair engine as the application and adds the ability to protect against attacks by infected files. When, for example, an infected Word file is opened, a dialogue box offers to repair the file before Word actually



VirusScan 3.0's cryptic main window interface provides access to each of the program's feature areas.

Virex and VirusScan

opens it. In addition, Virex automatically scans newly created files, including archives from programs such as Aladdin Systems' StuffIt. Although this feature sometimes makes Virex seem overzealous, it also means that any newly downloaded files are intercepted before damage can occur.

Along with its bread-and-butter antivirus features, Virex sports an impressive level of integration with Mac-specific technologies—including contextual menus, the Control Strip, and drag and drop—and this lets you quickly scan volumes, files, and folders.


Basic functionality

The first time you launch VirusScan 3.0, the program guides you through a series of questions that help the software configure its scanning frequency. But other than this notable feature, VirusScan's user interface is sparse to the point of being cryptic. The main window shuns text in favour of pictograms but isn't successful in making all features obvious; you have to go exploring to find what you're looking for.

VirusScan's configuration wizard lets you modify the conditions required to trigger a scan, including defining a scanning schedule. VirusScan's extension offers prevention features and contains the basic scanning engine. In fact, the application won't run unless the extension is in the Extensions folder, which can be

a slight problem if you have to move or disable the file, as you might before installing new software. And unlike Virex, VirusScan isn't particularly friendly about running scans in the background—doing so causes the foreground application to respond sluggishly.

The bottom line

Both products offer the basic features required of contemporary Macintosh antivirus software, but Virex shows a much greater attention to detail, better Mac OS integration, and the overall polish of a package that has been through several major revisions. Although each package has its flaws, VirusScan has significantly more rough spots and less-complete integration with the Mac environment. Of these two products, Virex is clearly superior. 

AT A GLANCE

Pros

Virex: Excellent integration; fast repeat scanning.

VirusScan: Offers basic antivirus features.

Cons

Virex: Overzealous scans. **VirusScan:** Cryptic interface; other applications' performance suffers during background scans.

•Support Agreements

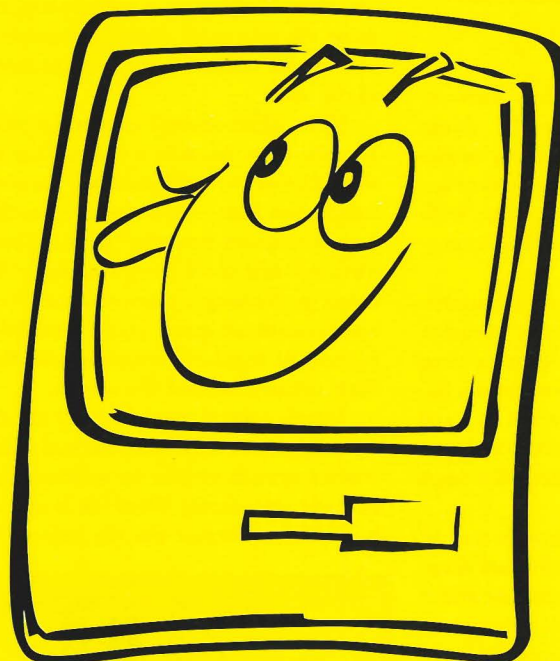
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Type: Virtual-reality authoring
Rating:  1/2
RRP: \$550
Publisher: Apple Computer
Distributor: Apple Computer Australia
Telephone: 02 9452 8000
Facsimile: 02 9452 8160
Reviewer: Jim Heid

QuickTime VR Authoring Studio 1.0

POWERHOUSE QTVR-PRODUCTION TOOL

Almost three years after releasing QuickTime VR (QTVR), Apple has finally delivered easy-to-use QTVR development software. QuickTime VR Authoring Studio 1.0, which replaces the Authoring Tools Suite, is straightforward enough for novices but sophisticated enough for high-volume QTVR production. It also compares favourably to third-party development tools, as it is able to handle all aspects of the QTVR production process. It can make panoramic movies, which let users explore 360-degree views of a scene, as well as object movies, which let them "pick up" and rotate objects.

The panoramic landscape

Stitching a panorama in Authoring Studio is a straightforward process: you import your images and specify the focal length and field of view of the lens you used. Authoring Studio contains presets for several common 35mm lenses and Apple's QuickTake 150 and 200 digital cameras. You can also create new lens presets by using Authoring Studio's Lens Estimator. The final step is to click on the Stitch Pano button and then sit back and marvel as Authoring Studio combines your images and blends them to create a seamless panorama. (Don't worry if problematic images don't stitch perfectly; Authoring Studio's

manual-stitching features are the best I've seen.) The result is a QTVR panoramic movie and a PICT file containing the stitched images.

QuickTime VR Authoring Studio is the only production tool of its kind that lets you create a multiple-node panorama—a single movie file containing several panoramas linked via hot spots. You simply draw arrows in the Scene Maker window to connect the individual panoramas and create hot spots that link them.

Object lessons

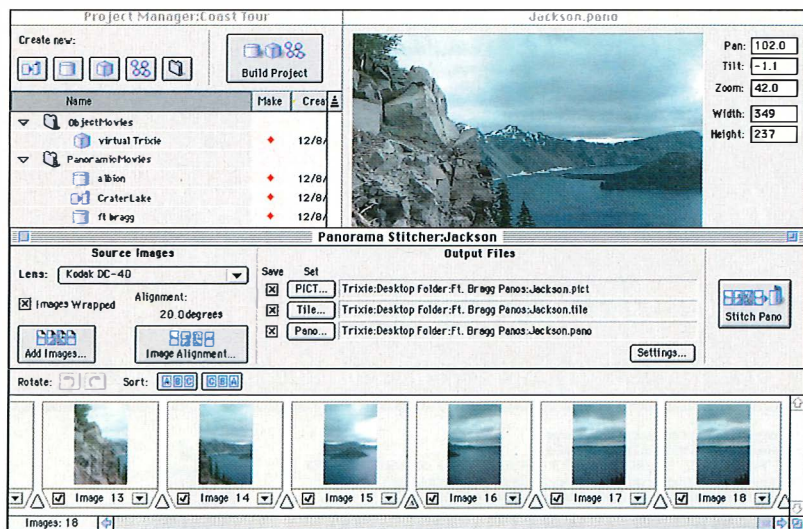
Authoring Studio's object-movie-making features are equally complete, supporting single-row object movies (which let users rotate an object) as well as multiple-row movies (which let users examine an object from above and below while rotating it).

Making multiple-row object movies requires taking dozens of images, moving the camera and object precisely after each one. QuickTime VR Authoring Studio streamlines this arduous process by supporting the growing number of motorised object platforms being offered by third parties. Authoring Studio can communicate with a motorised object platform through AppleScripts, snapping frames and moving the object and camera as necessary after each frame. If

you have a Mac with video-input capabilities, you can digitise the frames for an object movie directly within Authoring Studio. The program's video-capture window displays guides and crosshairs that help you position the object and camera.

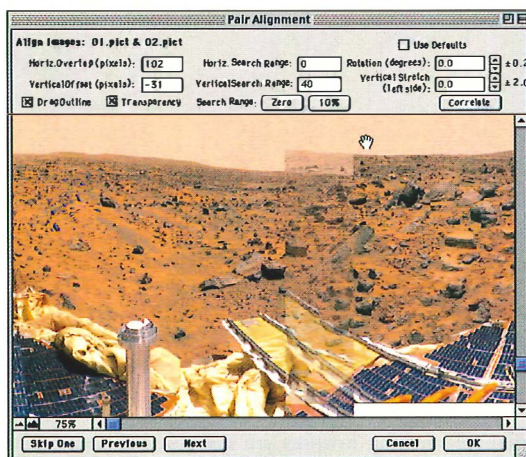
Managing your media

A large QTVR project can comprise dozens of objects and panoramas and hundreds of source images. QuickTime VR Authoring Studio's



Project Manager (top left) makes short work of creating complex projects, while the Panorama Stitcher (bottom) combines images seamlessly (upper right).

QuickTime VR Authoring Studio 1.0



Stitching two adjacent still images to create a QuickTime Virtual Reality panorama of Mars.

Project Manager window helps you tame this morass of media by acting as a container for object movies, panoramic movies, and scenes. You use the Project Manager to add icons that represent each movie the project will contain. Double-clicking on one of the icons opens the appropriate Authoring Studio tool; you specify the particulars for that movie—its source images and movie settings—and move on to the next one. When you've finished, click on the Build Project button and go to lunch while Authoring Studio

crunches through each movie.

Although QuickTime VR Authoring Studio is beautifully designed and implemented, it saves movies in QTVR 2.1 format, which can't be played by Windows versions of QuickTime prior to 3.0 (just released at writing). Although QTVR 2.1 and QuickTime 3.0 offer significant advantages over their predecessors, it will be some time before most Windows users upgrade. For now, at least, that means the QTVR 1.x format is preferable for web-destined movies. It also means you have to run Authoring Studio's output through a conversion utility to produce QTVR 1.0 movies. Apple's free conversion utility should be available by the time you read this; meanwhile, you can use the \$25 ConVRter from VRtools (02 9415 3148).

The bottom line

QuickTime VR Authoring Studio is the ultimate QTVR production tool. 

AT A GLANCE

Pros

Elegant user interface; creates multiple-node panoramas; excellent project-management features.

Cons

Can't save in QTVR 1.x format.

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Type: Morphing software
Rating: 
RRP: \$1995
Publisher: Avid Technology
Distributor: Avid Australia
Telephone: 02 9937 1800
Facsimile: 02 9937 1888
Reviewer: David Biedny and Travis Estrella

Elastic Reality 3.1

MORPHING SOFTWARE FOR PROFESSIONALS

Morphing, once over-used as a monster shape-shifter, is now a vital part of special-effects and visual-graphics production. Most of the good morphs you see today aren't even recognisable as morphs, and most of those—if they were done on a Macintosh—were created using Avid Technology's Elastic Reality. Designed to morph still and animated images and distort, shift, colour-correct, and generate moving mattes, Elastic Reality 3.1 is the most advanced morphing software available for the Mac.

Getting from here to there

Elastic Reality lets you drag two images (still or moving) from the desktop onto the project window; outline the desired features with bézier shapes; and transform one image into the other, using the shapes as guides. You can also use shapes as multipurpose masks to constrain colour corrections, path animations, and mattes. An assisted-tracing tool speeds masking by detecting colour-contrast areas and snapping the bézier line to the most likely edge. After you create the shapes, another set of tools helps you set up correspondences to link them.

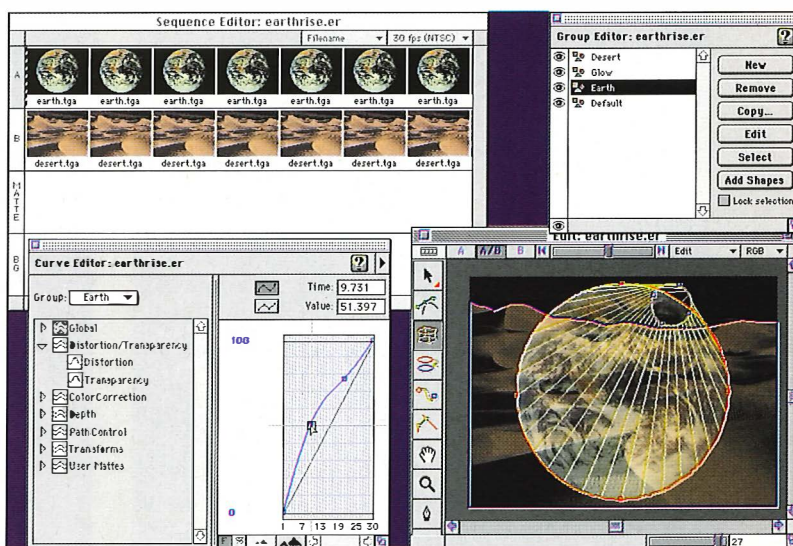
The extremely useful Group Editor lets you name shapes and groups of shapes. Within each group are several editable parameters: colour correction, distortion, transparency, layer depth, shadows, path control, scale and rotation transformations, and more. You can save or load the groups and edit them with the intuitive Curve Editor. With the Group Editor's layering options, you can assign the groups to individual layers. Some groups can block out other groups, which is useful for masking areas that move over one another during the course of an animation.

Elastic Reality's Sequence Editor offers a visual layout of the project frames and has four "tracks" for importing images: A- and B-roll tracks, a matte track, and a background-image track. The display isn't as customisable as it could be; the iconic representation of frames on the tracks is displayed one frame at a time and can't be changed to every *n*th frame, creating a problem for movies with a high frame count. In addition, Avid could have simplified some aspects of the overall interface by combining several of the editors. For example, the Sequence Editor and the Curve Editor probably could have been combined to resemble the timeline in Adobe After Effects, a program likely to be familiar to Elastic Reality users.

Fear not the mask

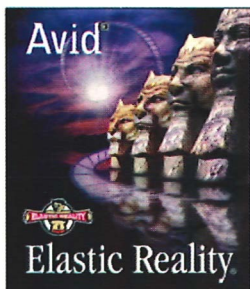
A good level of control over masks is absolutely necessary in professional video production, and Elastic Reality delivers. By adjusting the bézier mask shapes around the image you want to matte and keyframing those adjustments, you can quickly create a fairly decent travelling matte (an animated mask that tracks the object it's masking). You can group matte shapes and apply them to each other using booleans, varying opacity and edge sharpness, and then export the mattes separately or embed them as an alpha channel within the rendered footage.

Motion paths in Elastic Reality let you animate images moving along predefined bézier shapes. For example, say you want to combine a still overhead shot of a race car and animate it through a racetrack: not only can you "trace" the car's predefined routes; you can also point the car in the direction it's moving. The sole drawback is that only two elements can appear on top of the background image. To get around this, you could render out portions of the animation and continue to bring the rendered file into the background plate, compositing layer after layer until the animation is complete. You could also include all the elements to be animated in one image file,



Elastic Reality 3.1's Group Editor (upper right) colour-codes the masks for the earth and sand dunes to distinguish among the elements, while the Curve Editor (lower left) lets you control how the parameters change over time.

Elastic Reality 3.1



Mighty Morphin' US Presidents: These five frames come from a clip that Avid uses to demonstrate the power of Elastic Reality.

allowing multiple masks to be combined into groups that can be animated individually.


Another notable drawback is Elastic Reality's inability to auto-update previews: every update has to be rendered, and rendering time is related to the size and resolution of the final image. When adjusting the curves in a group, for example, you can't view the results immediately. Even a preview thumbnail would be a welcome addition. And although a wire-frame preview animates the bézier paths, it's almost useless when fine-tuning colour-correction and distortion intensities.

When you're ready to render, Elastic Reality lets you choose from more than 20 file formats, including QuickTime, Adobe Photoshop, Progressive JPEG, and TIFF. The output dialogue box offers numerous options for saving and naming files; another nice touch is a Format Info button that shows you the selected file parameters (such as alpha-channel capabilities, colour space, and size). Elastic Reality 3.1 also introduces support for field rendering, a welcome (and

overdue) addition. Rendering speed on a 250MHz G3 Macintosh is excellent.

The bottom line

Elastic Reality 3.1 is the best, most comprehensive morphing program for the Mac. The learning curve, price, and hardware-key copy protection put it out of the reach of casual QuickTime-movie makers; Elastic Reality is intended for the professional video market.

In the absence of low-end alternatives for the Mac or morphing plug-ins for Adobe Premiere and After Effects, Elastic Reality is your best bet for high-quality, Hollywood-calibre morphing effects. 

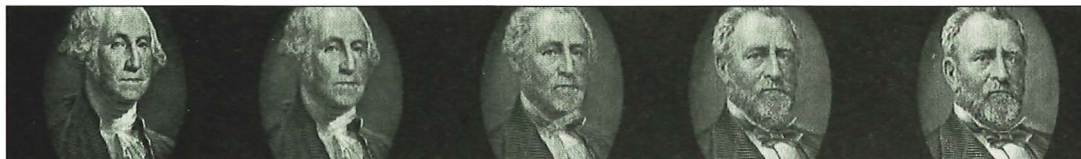
AT A GLANCE

Pros

Professional-quality morphing; precision controls; good masking tools; robust file-format support.

Cons

Pricy; expensive support policy; hardware copy protection; lacks real-time previews.



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Type: Video editing
Rating: 
RRP: \$1599 (\$799 education)
Publisher: MetaCreations
Distributor: Scholastic New Media
Telephone: 02 4328 3555
Facsimile: 02 4328 2205
Reviewer: Jim Heid

Final Effects Complete

TOP VIDEO-EFFECTS COLLECTION GROWS

Video producers who use Adobe After Effects have a vast selection of third-party plug-ins to choose from when they need to expand After Effects' repertoire. MetaCreations has taken two of the best of these collections, KPT Final Effects and Studio Effects; thrown in more than a dozen new filters; and wrapped it all up in a \$1599 package called Final Effects Complete. True to its name, this is the most complete set of After Effects filters you can buy.

Full o' filters

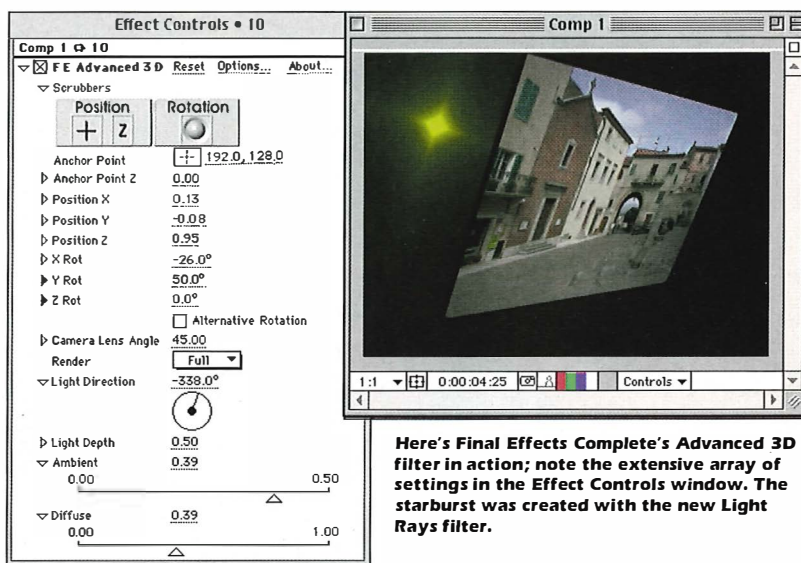
Most of the filters in Final Effects Complete are identical to those of its predecessors. All of Final Effects' and Studio Effects' greatest hits are here, including the gorgeous Page Peel, in which one layer peels back to reveal another; Light Burst, which casts glowing rays of light through a layer's alpha channel; Spotlight, which simulates a spotlight, whose angle, softness, and colour you can animate; and Burn Film, which simulates film burning under the heat of a projector lamp.

Final Effects and Studio Effects also offered a broad array of particle generators that simulate rain, fireworks, bubbles, and explosions. Final Effects Complete adds two new ones: the Hair generator, which could grow locks on a bowling ball, and Drizzle, which creates concentric rings reminiscent of raindrops splashing into a pond. The package also includes a dozen filters for distorting video, a common After Effects job. The two new filters are Bend It, which warps a layer, and Power Pin, which lets you stretch a layer as though it were a sheet of rubber.

Two of Final Effects Complete's new filters create 3D perspective effects. The Cylinder effect wraps a layer around an imaginary cylinder whose dimensions you can customise. More impressive is the Advanced 3D effect, which makes short work of creating tilting, rotating, and spinning effects. Advanced 3D also offers far more lighting options and a more realistic motion blur than does After Effects' built-in Basic 3D filter.

The rest of the new filters run the gamut from wire removal (for removing the wires that support, say, an actor suspended in front of a blue screen) to blurring (to create dizziness-inducing motion-blur effects). A new lighting filter creates dazzling rays of light.


All of Final Effects Complete's 60-plus filters are optimised for multiprocessor machines, and the package is also available for Windows 95 and NT.



Here's Final Effects Complete's Advanced 3D filter in action; note the extensive array of settings in the Effect Controls window. The starburst was created with the new Light Rays filter.

And to further sweeten this rich dish, Final Effects Complete includes much better documentation than its predecessors. The manual is more thorough and better illustrated, although I'd have liked additional insight into the new Advanced 3D filter. The CD-ROM contains sample movies and projects, and a videotape lets you see the filters in action from the comfort of your lounge suite.

The bottom line

At \$1599, Final Effects Complete is not cheap, but if you already own either Final Effects or Studio Effects, MetaCreations' upgrade price of \$599 (or \$299 if you own both) will make your day. If your wallet still whines, investigate DigiEffects' Aurorix and Berserk—although they can't match Final Effects Complete in breadth, at \$595 RRP each (Adimex, 02 9332 4444, fax 02 9332 4234) they cost far less. But if you've got a Titanic budget and want the most complete array of After Effects plug-ins available, you'll want Final Effects Complete. 

AT A GLANCE

Pros

Unmatched array of effects; superb particle generators; thorough manual; multiprocessor support.

Cons

Expensive.

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The switch-hitting system

Q I'm currently running Mac OS 8. Is there a way to switch back to Mac OS 7.6.1 temporarily and then switch back to Mac OS 8, without reinstalling either operating system every time I switch?

Benjamin Lim

Luke: Well, there's a couple of ways, but I'd prefer to know the reason you want to do this. Most of us haven't looked back after doing the big update to Mac OS 8.

Paul: Having two operating systems around can complicate things somewhat, as you'll need two copies of each preference file, font, extension or control panel.

Maybe you're running a program that breaks under Mac OS 8? (That is, a program that runs okay with earlier versions of the Mac OS, but not under this upgrade.)

Luke: If so, there might be an easier way to solve your problem.

Paul: The other reason you may want to do this is if you're really short on RAM. If that's the case, then by far the best thing you could do is throw some more RAM into the mix: the more the better.

Luke: Anyway. The simplest way to swap back and forth between operating systems is adding a second hard disk. Not only can you build a completely different system and boot from it, you'll get more storage. A second hard disk can also speed things up if you're using virtual memory—by putting the virtual memory file on a second disk, the primary disk has more time to do important stuff. Use the Startup Disk control panel to switch between the drives you wish to start up from.



Figure one: Apple's System Picker lets you choose which system will be active at start-up. It's kept on Apple's developers' site, rather than a general site for users, because Apple does not recommend keeping more than one system on a start-up disk.

Paul: If a second hard disk is out of reach, you've got a couple of alternatives available to you. You could partition the start-up disk so it appears to be two hard disks using Apple's Drive Setup...

Luke: ...or a third-party disk-partitioning utility such as FWB's brilliant Hard Disk Toolkit (see page 27).

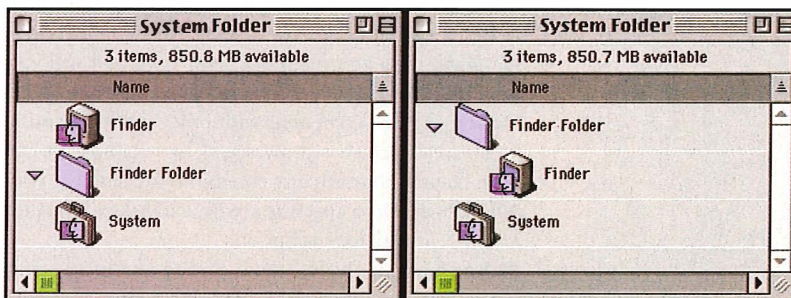
Paul: Alternatively, stick with a single unpartitioned hard disk, and use a utility that lets you tell your Mac

which system folder to use at next start-up. My pick for this job is Apple's own System Picker <devworld.apple.com/MacOS8/>. Version 1.1 supports Mac OS 8 (see figure one).

Luke: Here's another option: Keep both System Folders on your start-up disk, but only "bless" one at a time. (A blessed folder is a System Folder in which the active System and Finder are floating free.) The easiest way is to put a new folder in each System Folder called the Finder Folder. Then, when you want to swap systems, drag the active Finder into its Finder Folder and drag the other Finder out of its Finder Folder and back into its System Folder. Then, close these windows before restarting (see figure two).

Paul: Whoa! Don't forget that last step. If you don't close the System Folder that you wish to make active, it won't be blessed. Check that the System Folder inherits the special System Folder icon, or all you'll get on restart is a pesky blinking question mark (see pages 56–57).

Luke: I have several reservations about having two System Folders on one disk though, and Apple advises against it as well. Add another hard disk. Go on. You know you want to.



Mistaken identity

Q I have a PowerBook Duo 2300c with 20MB of RAM, Mac OS 8, Speed Doubler 8 and RAM Doubler 2. I'm really disappointed with its performance—GIF and JPEG screen draws take forever—so I ran Norton Utilities 3.1. Funnily enough, it tells me I have a Duo 2300c, but with a 63020 processor clocked at 56MHz and emulating an FPU in software—not the 100MHz 603e PowerPC processor that is meant to be a feature of the 2300c. "Whoa!" I thought. Has Apple sold me a dud? Did they run out of PowerPC 603e chips when they made this machine? The Apple System Profiler doesn't think so. So what's wrong? And what can I do to improve things?

Andrew Cheng

Christchurch, New Zealand

Luke and Paul: More RAM. Show me the memory!

Luke: But first, take your Norton Speed Ratings and throw them in the Trash. If you want accurate data



Luke Oliver (pictured) and Paul Bailly answer our readers' questions.

Email your

query to:

steve@niche.com.au

or write to:

**Help Folder,
Australian Macworld,
PO Box 2043,
St Kilda West, 3182**

Figure two: The System Folder at left is blessed because it contains the active System and Finder, floating free. The System Folder at right is presently not blessed because the Finder is in a user-created sub-folder called Finder Folder.

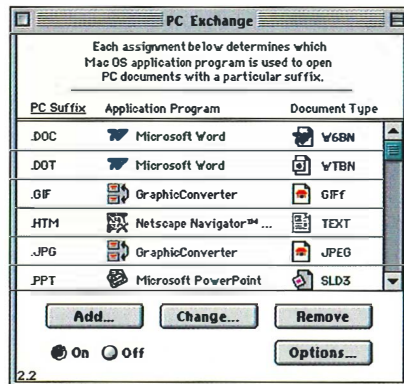


Figure three: Take advantage of this dialogue box provided by PC Exchange and you should find that files almost always open with a double-click.

you'll need to be up-to-date. For example, a newer version of Norton Utilities will be aware of your PowerPC chip set, and will stop talking 680x0 gibberish to its FPU.

Paul: Yep, it's like taking the person who invented the wheel and asking them to comment on today's Formula 1 technology. Norton Utilities is up to version 3.5.2 these days, and as with any piece of software that tinkers under the bonnet of your Mac, keeping this product current is the best thing you can do for yourself. Contact Symantec

Australia (02 9879 6577) for upgrade details, or drop by your nearest Apple-authorized reseller.

Luke: Just as an aside, if you've made the jump to the new HFS+ disk format, don't expect Norton Utilities to support it yet. At this writing, your only diagnostic utilities for this disk format are Apple's own Disk First Aid and MicroMat's \$269 RRP TechTool Pro 2.0 (02 9211 7194, fax 02 9211 7270).

Paul: Good point. Anyways, back to the speed ratings. I strongly recommend you check out MacBench 4.0, which is by those talented people at Ziff-Davis labs, and is freeware from <www.zdnet.com/zdbop/>. It's much more thorough than Norton's, and will give you an idea of just how quickly your Mac jumps off the starting line compared with other models—and in what areas, screen redraw speed for example. It can even be used to test if any extensions are slowing your Mac down. Do a speed test with extensions off, then compare it with extensions on.

Luke: Next, it's RAM time. You're almost certainly running a version of Netscape Navigator if you're complaining of slow GIF and JPEG redraws.

Paul: This is about the 238th time I've said this privately to Luke, but I can't wait for the day someone wises up to the need for a compact, fast web browser. Netscape and Microsoft are both guilty of producing seriously bloated browsers, and there's not a huge difference in appearance between versions 1.0 and 4.0 of either of them. I'd like to see the folks who wrote ClarisWorks or Claris E-mailer take up the challenge: their browser would probably run in a megabyte, launch in five seconds flat, and draw pages faster than you can say "How fast was that!"

Luke: If, like me, you're willing to forego some of the wizzy bits, jumping back a major version or two can significantly speed things up. Have a look at Netscape's Navigator 2.02 <home.netscape.com/download> and Microsoft's Internet Explorer 3.0.1 <www.microsoft.com/ie/download/>. The latter is a surprisingly good product, and it shipped with Mac OS 8.

Paul: And keep an eye on the folk at Opera Software <www.operasoftware.com>.

Luke: RAM Doubler will slow you down. You don't get something for nothing, regardless of what the press releases may say. It's a fine product; but if it's speed you're after, there just ain't no substitute for real RAM.

Paul: Your 2300c could go all the way to 56MB of RAM. Make it so.

File-transfer tricks

Q Every now and then when receiving files from Windows users, I'm stuck with a generic document icon that, when double-clicked, does not automatically open within the appropriate application; rather, I'm presented with a list of applications I could use to open it. Is there any way I can make my Mac smarter about this?

Kathy Fraser

Paul: You'll be glad to hear there are several ways you can speed things up here. But first, let's examine why this is happening.

Most operating systems use the last few letters of the filename to figure out what type each document is. For example, .TXT for a text file, .ZIP for a Zip archive, .DOC for a Microsoft Word document.

Luke: Macs use a different method which saves you from having to worry about how you name each file. Under Mac OS every file has two invisible four-digit tags called type and creator. When you double-click a document's icon, the Mac reads its creator code to match it to an application, and its type code to determine what sort of document it is. For example, a Microsoft Word 6 document has a file type of W6BN, and a creator of MSWD.

Paul: When you receive a file from a non-Mac system, however, this information isn't there, so when you double-click the file, the Mac has to make a best guess, presenting you with a list of applications it thinks can open the file. That's a bit cumbersome, as you've found. The good news is you can give your Mac a helping hand in figuring out what type these files are, and which programs were used to create them.

Luke: If you receive DOS files on floppy disk, PC Exchange will be a boon. PC Exchange performs two main functions—it lets your Mac see DOS disks, and it can look at the three-letter filename extensions and automatically provide the matching type and creator codes so they open just like Mac documents. All you need to do is tell PC Exchange once which application to map to each extension, and it'll do the rest.

Luke: Figure three is a look at PC Exchange's window. The first line of the tables means "When you see a file ending in .DOC, make like it's a Word 6 document."

To map another filename suffix to an application, click the Add button, type a three-letter suffix, find the application to map it to, and choose the document type. You'll usually be able to judge a document's type by looking at its icon.

Paul: While PC Exchange is great for handling files coming to you via disks and other removable media, it can't help with files you download from the internet or have emailed to you. In this case, try Quinn "The Eskimo" and Peter N Lewis's Internet Config, which is freeware from <www.stairways.com>. It's a small extension and application combo that centralises your internet preferences and includes a system for mapping filename suffixes to type and creator codes. What this means is, with a correctly configured web browser or email client, any files you receive will automatically have Mac-specific file information added.

Dealing with DOS

Q I've created a number of QuickTime files on my Mac-based Avid MCX non-linear video-editing system, ready for delivery to a client on Zip disks that have been formatted for DOS boxes. Those files larger than around 60MB won't transfer to the Zip disks, however. Any clues? Incidentally, a Mac-formatted Zip disk could accommodate the larger file sizes without any problems. A good thing too, I say.

Stephen Skrok

Paul: I think you may be hitting a DOS limitation. Or rather, a limitation of the DOS-standard disk format used in this instance.

Luke: A limitation imposed by DOS: imagine that!

Paul: I seem to be saying this a lot lately: upgrade to Mac OS 8.1, it may be just the fix you need. PC Exchange 2.2 is included with Mac OS 8.1, which has much better support for large DOS volumes, supporting VFAT and FAT32 partitions. It even (finally!) recognises the long filenames used in Windows 95.

Luke: It's also a good idea to update your Zip driver software to the current release, 5.5.1 as of this writing. You can find it at <www.iomega.com/support/software/mac.html>. When formatting the Zip disk, use the Iomega Tools app and tell it to perform a Long Erase to ensure the disk is completely healthy.

Paul: I'm using this configuration right now, and my Mac quite happily copied a 70MB file to and from a DOS-formatted Zip disk—so you should find that this works for you too. ☺

Adelaide-based Luke Oliver is grateful for the dominance of Wintel, which should keep him gainfully employed for the rest of his life, but he owns and loves Macs. Paul Baily lives in Brisbane, but that's okay, they have Macs there too.

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Creating custom cross-platform icons



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Australian Macworld
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PICA
SOFTWARE

When you make Mac and Windows projector applications for a Macromedia Director movie, it's a nice touch to give both projector files similar custom icons. Here's a quick way to create nearly identical icons for both platforms using Apple's ResEdit, available from ftp.apple.com.au/pub/asu/macintosh/utilities/; the cross-platform cut-and-paste abilities SoftWindows 95, which is \$411 RRP and distributed by Conexus (02 9975 2799, fax 02 9975 2966); and Microangelo, which can be ordered through www.impactsoft.com for prices starting at \$US24.95 plus shipping. Windows doesn't let you customise file icons as easily as the Mac's Get Info window does, but Microangelo lets you change the icon of a Director projector—or any Windows application—in a couple of steps.

1. To create the custom icon, open a copy of the Mac projector application with ResEdit, double-click the icl8 resource in the application's resources window, and then double-click the application icon in the icl8 resources window. This opens an editing window for the application icon (see figure one). After editing the icon, save your changes, select all, and copy the selection.

2. Now switch to the SoftWindows 95 environment, launch Microangelo Librarian (part of the Microangelo suite; each Microangelo application is listed in a submenu of the Windows Start menu), and

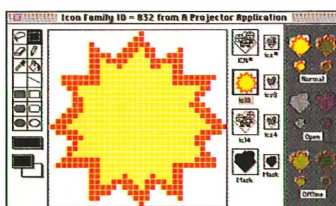


Figure one: Use ResEdit to alter the icon Mac for your cross-platform Director projector applications.

Figure two: Use Microangelo to make a Windows icon for your cross-platform Director projector applications.



use it to open the Windows projector file. (At the bottom of the Open File dialogue box, set the Files Of Type option to Program, or you won't be able to open the projector file.) The result should look similar to figure two.

3. In the Microangelo Librarian window, double-click the projector file's icon to bring up an icon-editing window, and then paste the icon copied from the Mac. The pasted icon may show some colour shifts, since the Windows colour palette is different from the Mac's. Close Microangelo's icon-editing window, and click Yes in the next dialogue box to update the icon.

Then close the Microangelo Librarian window and click Yes when prompted to save changes to the projector file. The Windows projector now has essentially the same icon as the Mac projector.

The same technique works with the cross-platform cut and paste of an Apple PC Compatibility Card. Also, you don't need to mess with ResEdit if you don't want a small custom icon on the Mac. Simply create the icon image with any paint or draw program (make the image 32-by-32 pixels for best results); copy it; and paste it into the upper-left corner of the projector application's Get Info window. Then switch to the Windows environment and use Microangelo to paste the custom icon over the projector program's standard 32-by-32 and 16-by-16 icons.

Patrick McMahon

Launcher tabs

Those of us fortunate enough to be working with Mac OS 8.0 or later can have our Launcher and eat it too. Instead of having the Launcher window occupy much of your screen, try this:

Open the Launcher Items folder in the System Folder on your start-up hard disk. All the Launcher buttons should present as folders. With the Launcher Items window active, select all these sub-folders (command-A) then open them (command-O).

PICA TIP OF THE MONTH

Peter Gort's "Put me online" (January 1998, page 42) is a useful script that illustrates several aspects of AppleScript use. However, it can be improved by having it open the web browser specified by Internet Config, as the latter is now included with Mac OS and is required by several popular internet applications.

To read or change Internet Config settings from an AppleScript, you need Leonard Rosenthol and Dan Crevier's ICScripator (also known as InternetConfig Commands OSAX), which is available at hyperarchive.lcs.mit.edu/HyperArchive/Archive/dev/osa/. Instead of asking the user to select their preferred web browser the first time the script is run, the script in figure four uses the GetICHelper command to identify the browser that the user has already selected within Internet Config. Version 1.13 of the OSAX is needed as earlier versions had a bug which prevented access to the creator code of an internet application.

This AppleScript has the advantage that it continues to work appropriately if the user's allegiance changes to a different web browser.

Daniel James

Next, drag these open windows to the bottom of the screen to convert them to space-saving pop-up windows. They now only occupy a few millimetres of screen real-estate (see figure four). Set each of these folders to Button view (under the Finder's View menu) for even quicker access.

Craig Ballinger

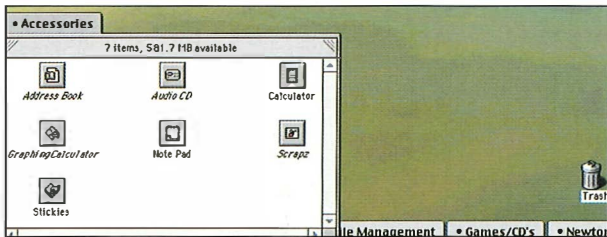


Figure three: Tabbed folders are a neat space-saving alternative to the Launcher.

Scrolling through LaserWriter options

In the Print and Page Setup dialogue boxes for the printer driver LaserWriter version 8.4 or later, you can switch among six or more groups of options by choosing from a pop-up menu. This method gets cumbersome if you can't remember which group contains a particular option, making you long for the simpler LaserWriter drivers of yore. A fast way to scroll through the groups of options is to press command-up arrow and command-down arrow, or page up and page down if your keyboard has these keys.

Francis George

ClarisWorks keyboard shortcuts

While in Browse mode in a ClarisWorks database, typing command-hyphen in the following field types enters the following information:

Number field: current record number
Date field: today's date
Time field: current time
Text field: tab character

Halim Ngah

Access Eudora remotely

Do you want to access your Qualcomm Eudora mailbox from a remote Mac over a network? Try this:

First, turn on file sharing on the Mac with your Eudora mailbox, using either the File Sharing or Sharing Setup control panel. Then, make sure Eudora is not running on this machine, as only one copy of the program can access each mailbox at a time. Next, select the Eudora Folder inside that Mac's System Folder and choose Sharing from the File menu to access the Eudora Folder's sharing-options window. In this window, select the option Share This Item And Its Contents and set the access privileges to prohibit access by Everyone (that is, by guests).

Now you can access your shared Eudora Folder from a remote Mac on the network—including a Mac connected to the network via modem and Apple Remote Access software.

Connect to your original Mac, and access its shared Eudora Folder by using the remote Mac's Chooser. Make an alias for the Eudora Folder icon that appears on the remote Mac's desktop, and put the alias in that Mac's System Folder. Open the System Folder, drag the remote Mac's original Eudora Folder onto the desktop (or into the Trash if no one will need to use its mailboxes and address book), and change the name of the Eudora Folder alias to Eudora Folder.

Now when you launch Eudora on the remote Mac, the Mac uses the Eudora Folder alias to access the Eudora Folder on your original Mac. You can access your mailboxes, queue messages, and so forth across the network.

If you need to restore the remote Mac's local mailboxes and address book, just drag the Eudora Folder alias from the remote Mac's System Folder to the Trash, and drag the original Eudora Folder back into the System Folder.

Clement Topping

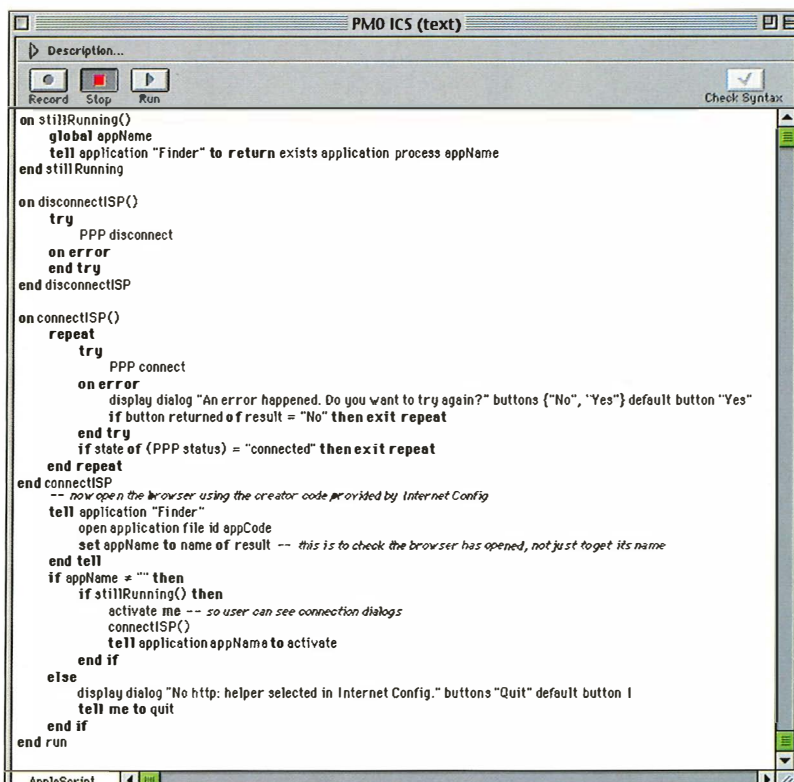


Figure four: This AppleScript takes advantage of Internet Config to determine your preferred web browser.

Finder

Apple systems

All prices and specifications taken from Apple's latest price list at writing—6 April 1998. All prices include sales tax.

System	RRP	Chassis	Processor	RAM / max	L2 cache	Hard disk
Macintosh 5500	\$2795	all-in-one	603e @ 225MHz	16MB / 128MB	256K	2GB (IDE)
Macintosh 5500	\$3795	all-in-one	603e @ 250MHz	32MB / 128MB	256K	4GB (IDE)
6500 Video Editing System	\$3995	minitower	603e @ 275MHz	32MB (EDO) / 128MB	512K	4GB (IDE)
Power Mac 7220 PC Compatible	\$3495	desktop	603e @ 200MHz	16MB / 160MB	slot vacant	2GB (IDE)
Power Mac G3 Desktop 233	\$3495	desktop	750 @ 233MHz	32MB / 192MB	512K (backside)	4GB (IDE)
Power Mac G3 Desktop 266	\$3995	desktop	750 @ 266MHz	32MB / 192MB	512K (backside)	4GB (IDE)
Power Mac G3 Minitor 266	\$5495	minitower	750 @ 266MHz	32MB / 384MB	512K (backside)	6GB (IDE)
Workgroup Server 7250/120	\$3295	desktop	601 @ 120MHz	16MB / 256MB	256K	2GB (SCSI)
Workgroup Server G3	\$6495	minitower	750 @ 233MHz	64MB/348MB	512K (backside)	4GM (U/FW SCSI)
Workgroup Server 9650	\$9995	tower	604e @ 350MHz	64MB / 768MB	512K	2x4GB (U/W SCSI)
Workgroup Server 9650	\$10,995	tower	604e @ 350MHz	64MB / 768MB	512K	2x4GB (U/W SCSI)
PowerBook 1400cs	\$2995	laptop	603e @ 133MHz	16MB / 64MB	128K	1.3GB
PowerBook 1400cs	\$3395	laptop	603e @ 166MHz	16MB / 64MB	128K	1.3GB
PowerBook 1400c	\$3995	laptop	603e @ 166MHz	16MB / 64MB	128K	2GB
PowerBook 3400c	\$5995	laptop	603e @ 200MHz	16MB / 144MB	256K	2GB
PowerBook G3	\$9995	laptop	750 @ 250MHz	32MB (EDO) / 160MB	512K (backside)	5GB (ATA IDE)

Monitors: Design 14 Display (\$500); Design 520 Display (\$545); Apple Multiple Scan 720 Display (\$1200); AppleVision 750 Display (\$1500); AppleVision 750AV Display (\$1700); AppleVision 850 Display (\$3400).

*Apple's Premium Software bundle varies from product to product, but typically includes the Apple Internet Connection Kit, ClarisWorks Office, MacLinkPlus/Easy Open Translators, Microsoft Encarta, World Atlas, Microsoft Dinosaurs, Casually Kid First Aid, Descent, F/A-18 Hornet, Crystal Caliburn Pinball, MacLinkPlus, Click Art, Australian Product Reference Guide, PhotoFlash, Apple Personal Modem, Telecom 3.0, Apple Video Player, HyperCard Player, At Ease, SimCity 2000, Spaceway 2000, Spin Doctor, Super Maze Wars, Lemmings, Eric's Solitaire Sampler, Peter Pan Sampler.

Umax systems

All prices and configurations taken from CEA's latest price list at writing—6 April 1998. All prices include sales tax.

System	RRP	Chassis	Processor	RAM / max	L2 cache	Hard disk
Apus 2000/200	\$1782	desktop	603e @ 200MHz	16MB / 144MB	slot vacant	1.6GB (IDE)
Apus 2000/200 & monitor bundle	\$2116	desktop	603e @ 200MHz	16MB / 144MB	slot vacant	1.6GB (IDE)
Apus 3000/240	\$2314	minitower	603e @ 240MHz	16MB / 144MB	256K	2.1GB (IDE)
Aegis 200	\$2726	desktop	604e @ 200MHz	32MB / 160MB	512K	2.5GB (IDE)
Pulsar Pro 1500 basic build	\$2196	tower	no CPU board	16MB / 1040MB	512K	none
Pulsar Pro 1500	\$2996	tower	604 @ 150MHz	16MB / 1040MB	512K	2.1GB (SCSI II)
Pulsar Pro 1800	\$3069	tower	604e @ 180MHz	32MB / 1040MB	512K	2.1GB (SCSI II)
Pulsar Pro 2250	\$3628	tower	604e @ 225MHz	32MB / 1040MB	512K	2.1GB (SCSI II)
Pulsar Pro 2330	\$3768	tower	604e @ 233MHz	32MB / 1040MB	512K	2.1GB (SCSI II)
Pulsar Pro 2500	\$4187	tower	604e @ 250MHz	32MB / 1040MB	512K	4GB (SCSI II)
Super Pulsar 3600 DP	\$3425	tower	2x 604e @ 180MHz	80MB / 1040MB	512K	2.1GB (SCSI II)
Super Pulsar 4000 DP	\$3907	tower	2x 604e @ 200MHz	80MB / 1040MB	512K	4.3GB (SCSI II)
Super Pulsar 5000 DP	\$5516	tower	2x 604e @ 250MHz	80MB / 1040MB	512K	4.3GB (SCSI II)
Super Pulsar Pro G3	\$8982	tower	750 @ 266MHz	32MB / 1040MB	1MB (backside)	4.3GB (SCSI II)
Super Pulsar Pro G3	\$8982	tower	750 @ 275MHz	80MB / 1040MB	1MB (backside)	4.3GB (SCSI II)
Super Pulsar Pro G3	\$8982	tower	750 @ 300MHz	80MB / 1040MB	1MB (backside)	4.3GB (SCSI II)
Super Pulsar Pro G3	\$8982	tower	750 @ 300MHz	80MB / 1040MB	1MB (backside) @ 300MHz	4.3GB (SCSI II)

Monitors: Sony 15 (\$716); Sony 17 (\$1585); Sony 20 (\$3746); ViewSonic 14 (\$435); ViewSonic 15 (\$556); ViewSonic 17 (\$1271); ViewSonic 20 (\$2379);

Secondhand systems

This list is compiled by Mac Rent as an approximate guide to secondhand prices. All units are sold with warranty support and can be supplied internet-ready.

Discontinued Macintosh					
Mac Plus	\$50	Centris 610 8/230	\$500	28.8 modem video-in	\$1400
SE 4/40	\$200	Centris 610 8/230/CD	\$600	Performa 5400/120 16/1.6GB/CD	\$1500
SE 30 5/40	\$350	Centris 650 8/230/CD	\$700	Performa 5400/160 16/1.6GB/CD	\$1700
SE 30 8/80	\$400	Centris 650 20/230/CD	\$800	Performa 5400 16/1.8GB/CD DOS	\$1800
Classic 4/40	\$300	Mac Portable 2/40	\$100	Power Mac 6100/60 8/350	\$1100
Classic 4/80	\$350	Quadra 605 8/250	\$500	Power Mac 6100/66 16/350/CD DOS	\$1400
Classic II 4/40	\$350	Quadra 610 8/160	\$550	Power Mac 6200/75 8/500	\$1100
Classic II 4/80	\$400	Quadra 610 8/250/CD	\$600	Power Mac 6200/75 8/500/CD	\$1200
Colour Classic 4/40	\$440	Quadra 650 8/230/CD	\$700	Power Mac 6200 8/800/CD	
LC 4/40	\$150	Quadra 660AV 8/230/CD	\$900	14.4 modem 14" AV display	\$1600
LC II 4/40	\$200	Quadra 840AV 16/500/CD	\$1200	Power Mac 6200TV 8/800/CD	
LC III 5/80	\$300	Quadra 700 8/230	\$500	28.8 modem 14" AV display	\$1800
LC475 8/250	\$450	Quadra 900 8/160	\$600	Performa 6300 8/1.2GB/CD	\$1600
LC520 4/80/CD	\$500	Quadra 950 8/230	\$800	Power Mac 6300/120 16/1.2GB/CD	\$1300
LC575 8/250/CD	\$750	Quadra 950 20/500	\$950	Performa 6400/180 16/1.6GB/CD	\$2000
LC630 8/500 (no FPU)	\$500	Quadra 800 8/230	\$700	Performa Directors Edition	\$2200
LC630 8/850/CD (with FPU)	\$700	Quadra 800 20/500/CD	\$820	Power Mac 7100/66AV 16/500	\$1000
LC630 12/500 DOS	\$900	Performa 250	\$440	Power Mac 7100/80 16/700	\$1100
Mac II 5/40	\$50	Performa 580 8/250	\$800	Power Mac 7200/75 8/500/CD	\$1500
Mac IIX 5/80	\$150	Performa 580 8/800/CD	\$1000	Power Mac 7200/120 8/1.2GB/CD	\$1400
Mac IICx 5/80	\$300	Performa 5200TV 16/800/CD		Power Mac 7200/120 8/1.2GB/CD DOS	\$1600
Mac IIfx 5/80	\$300	28.8 modem	\$1200	Power Mac 7200/120 16/1.2GB/CD	\$1500
Mac IIfx 5/80	\$350	Performa 5200 12/800/CD 14.4 modem	\$1400	Power Mac 7200/120 24/1.2GB/CD	\$1600
Mac IIfx 8/80	\$400	Performa 5200TV 12/800/CD 14.4 modem	\$1600	Power Mac 7300/180 16/2GB/CD	\$2500
Mac IIfx 5/80	\$250	Performa 5260/75 12/800/CD	\$1500	Power Mac 7300/180 32/2GB/CD DOS	\$2600
Mac IIfx 8/80	\$450	Performa 5260/120 16/1.2GB/CD		Power Mac 7300/200 16/32/2GB/CD	\$2900
Mac IIfx 8/230/CD	\$600	28.8 modem	\$1300	Power Mac 7300/200 16/32/2GB/CD DOS	\$3800
		Performa 5260TV/120 16/1.2GB/CD		Power Mac 7500/132 16/1.2GB/CD	\$1800

Free-call 1800 025 355 to find your nearest Apple-authorized reseller.

Display system	Software / other
built-in 15" monitor; 2MB VRAM	Mac OS 8.1; Apple Premium Software bundle*; ATI 3D Rage II accelerator; 12x CD-ROM, keyboard/mouse.
built-in 15" monitor; 2MB VRAM	Mac OS 8.1; Apple Premium Software bundle*; modem; video-in; ATI 3D Rage II accelerator; 12x CD-ROM, keyboard/mouse.
2MB VRAM (SGRAM)	Mac OS 8.1; Avid Cinema; Apple Premium Software bundle*; video-in and out; ATI 3D Rage II accelerator; 12x CD-ROM, keyboard/mouse.
2MB VRAM (EDO) upgradable to 4MB	Mac OS 8.1; Pentium card with 16MB of RAM and Windows 95; 12x CD-ROM; 2D graphics accelerator; keyboard/mouse.
2MB VRAM (SGRAM), upgradable to 6MB	Mac OS 8.1; 24x CD-ROM; Fast SCSI; ATI 3D Rage II accelerator; three PCI slots; 10BaseT Ethernet; keyboard/mouse.
2MB VRAM (SGRAM), upgradable to 6MB	Mac OS 8.1; Zip drive; 24x CD-ROM; Fast SCSI; ATI 3D Rage II accelerator; three PCI slots; 10BaseT Ethernet; keyboard/mouse.
2MB VRAM (SGRAM), upgradable to 6MB	Mac OS 8.1; Zip drive; video-in; 24x CD-ROM; three PCI slots; ATI 3D Rage II accelerator; 10BaseT Ethernet; keyboard/mouse.
1MB VRAM	US system software (Mac OS 8.1); 4x CD-ROM; Ethernet; three PCI slots; keyboard/mouse.
2MB VRAM (SGRAM), upgradable to 6MB	US system software (Mac OS 8.1); G3 server software†; Zip drive; 24x CD-ROM; three PCI slots; 10/10BaseT Ethernet; keyboard/mouse.
4MB VRAM on PCI card	US system software (Mac OS 8.1); AppleShareP 5.0.2; 12x CD-ROM; six PCI slots (four vacant); Fast and 2x Ultra/Wide SCSI; keyboard/mouse.
4MB VRAM on PCI card	US system software (Mac OS 8.1); AppleShareP 5.0.2; 12x CD-ROM; six PCI slots (four vacant); Fast and 2x Ultra/Wide SCSI; keyboard/mouse.
11.3" dual-scan passive-matrix display	PowerBook software ‡; 6x CD-ROM; floppy; infrared; PC Card slots and expansion bay.
11.3" dual-scan passive-matrix display	PowerBook software ‡; 6x CD-ROM; floppy; infrared; PC Card slots and expansion bay.
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12.1" active-matrix display (1MB VRAM)	PowerBook software ‡; 6x CD-ROM; floppy; Ethernet; infrared; PC Card slots and expansion bay.
12.1" active-matrix display (1MB VRAM)	Mac OS 8.1; 20x CD-ROM; floppy; Ethernet; infrared; PC Card slots and expansion bay.

† AppleShareP 5.0.2 (unlimited user license); ANAT (10-client license); SoftRAID 2.0.2; Virex.

‡ Mac OS 8.1; ClarisWorks Office; Claris Organizer; Apple Internet Connection Kit; Macintosh PC Exchange; Macintosh Easy Open; MacLinkPlus.

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Display system	Software / other
1MB VRAM (on-board)	Mac OS 7.6; 8x CD-ROM; three PCI slots; keyboard/mouse.
1MB VRAM (on-board)	Mac OS 7.6; 15" Umax monitor; 8x CD-ROM; three PCI slots; keyboard/mouse.
1MB VRAM (on-board)	Mac OS 7.6; 8x CD-ROM; three PCI slots; keyboard/mouse.
4MB VRAM	Mac OS 8; 12x CD-ROM; three PCI slots; keyboard/mouse.
no video card	Mac OS 8; 24x CD-ROM; six PCI slots; 10BaseT Ethernet; keyboard/mouse.
2MB VRAM on Matrox Millennium video card	Mac OS 8; 8x CD-ROM; six PCI slots; 10BaseT Ethernet; keyboard/mouse.
2MB VRAM on Matrox Millennium video card	Mac OS 8; 8x CD-ROM; six PCI slots; 10BaseT Ethernet; keyboard/mouse.
4MB VRAM on 128-bit IMS video card	Mac OS 8; 8x CD-ROM; six PCI slots; 10BaseT Ethernet; keyboard/mouse.
4MB VRAM on 128-bit IMS video card	Mac OS 8; 8x CD-ROM; six PCI slots; 10BaseT Ethernet; keyboard/mouse.
4MB VRAM on 128-bit IMS video card	Mac OS 8; 8x CD-ROM; six PCI slots; 10BaseT Ethernet; keyboard/mouse.
4MB VRAM on 128-bit IMS video card	Mac OS 8; 12x CD-ROM; six PCI slots; 10BaseT Ethernet; keyboard/mouse.
8MB VRAM on 128-bit IMS video card	Mac OS 8; 12x CD-ROM; six PCI slots; 10BaseT Ethernet; keyboard/mouse.
8MB VRAM on 128-bit IMS video card	Mac OS 8; 12x CD-ROM; six PCI slots; 10BaseT Ethernet; keyboard/mouse.
4MB VRAM on 128-bit IMS video card	Mac OS 8; 24x CD-ROM; six PCI slots; 2x Fast SCSI II; 10BaseT Ethernet; keyboard/mouse.
8MB VRAM on 128-bit IMS video card	Mac OS 8; 24x CD-ROM; six PCI slots; 2x Fast SCSI II; 10BaseT Ethernet; keyboard/mouse.
8MB VRAM on 128-bit IMS video card	Mac OS 8; 24x CD-ROM; six PCI slots; 2x Fast SCSI II; 10BaseT Ethernet; keyboard/mouse.
8MB VRAM on 128-bit IMS video card	Mac OS 8; 24x CD-ROM; six PCI slots; 2x Fast SCSI II; 10BaseT Ethernet; keyboard/mouse.

ViewSonic 21 (\$3116). Add Mac video adaptor (\$42) to use ViewSonic monitor with Apus system.

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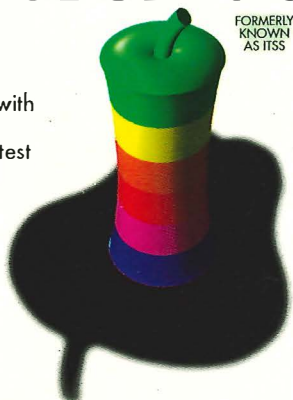
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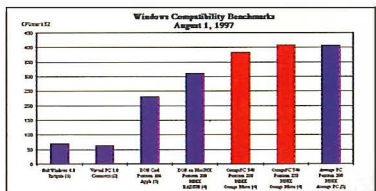
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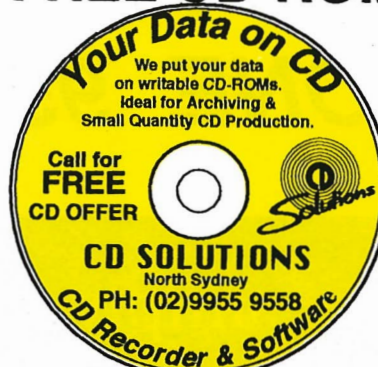


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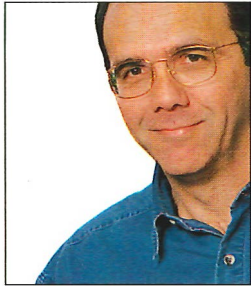
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A fresh breeze blows from Cupertino



By Peter Schmideg

Sunny days are here again.

Something is happening. I don't know what it is, but it's happening. There is a change of mood, a new found positive "go for it" kind of feeling.

There seems to be an extra sparkle on that famous logo, and a swagger in the step of resellers and users. People are feeling that the worst is behind us. The roller coaster ride of good news, bad news, no news, seems to be levelling out.

At the time of writing about 700,000 G3 Macs had been sold. That's a lot of boxes from a company that was apparently on the brink of disaster 12 months ago.

Things are certainly looking up. Interim CEO Steve Jobs is still prowling around stages at conferences with his newly grown facial fungus, which makes him look a lot like Robin Williams. However, a few questions remain. Has Apple given up looking for a permanent CEO? Is Steve here to stay? We don't know yet.

What we do know is that a new optimism is surging through Apple HQ. At last, there is the right mix of products, we are not getting too much of things we don't want and too little of the things we do. Yin and Yang. Balance. Harmony. Even many of the once grumbling developers are again confident about the Mac OS and are churning out new titles.

The Macintosh faithful are also cheering the news that Microsoft Office 98 is available in a Mac-only version. This can only be a positive thing, raising the profile of Office 98 and Apple as well. Who knows, somebody might want this software so badly that they'll buy a Mac. It could be the "killer app" that pushes the non-committed or "technologically confused" into the Apple camp.

Reflecting this new found optimism is the Think Different campaign, which was recently launched here in Australia. The advertisement with Richard Dreyfus' laconic voice-over is wonderful. "Here's to the crazy ones..." Apparently the real people who should be starring in it—Jobs and Wozniak—declined to do so. If they didn't "think different" all those years ago, we wouldn't be here today.

Speaking of the campaign, I actually "get it" in that "Think Different" isn't an ungrammatical version of "Think Differently", as some have suggested. It's the same as "Think Smart" or "Think Fast" or "Think Mac".

This is a campaign that, to a large extent, preaches to the converted. It makes all of us who use a Mac feel all warm and fuzzy. That's okay, it never hurts to reinforce somebody's purchasing decision. Say you buy an Ericsson mobile and then you see an ad for it—you give yourself a pat on the back. The Apple ads are no different. As Mac users, we like to think of ourselves as a little more radical perhaps, people who choose a different technological path. I think the ad is as much a salute to current users, as it is a teaser for those who are still "thinking about it". I'd be curious to see how well it works on the great unwashed in Clone-land.

Apple is urging us to do something cognitive, while Microsoft teases us with "where do you want to go today". That slogan still sounds like something a cab driver would say, and it doesn't differentiate Microsoft's product. Why is it unique? Why is different or better? The images that come up on the PCs in the Microsoft ads can also be seen on a Mac. Where do I want to go today? How about an AppleCentre?

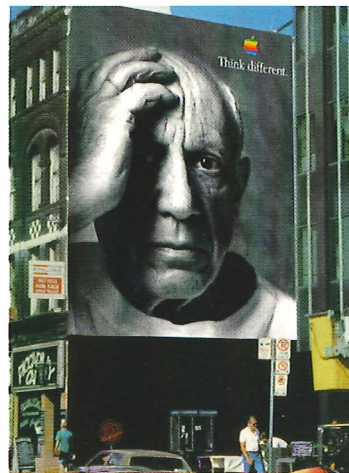
If you haven't already visited www.apple.com/hotnews/features/ads/snailad.html, I suggest you take a look while this address is still host to Apple's more recent TV spot, which has Intel firmly in its sites. We see a snail crawling across the screen with a Pentium II chip on its shell, in a very unsubtle comparison with the G3 chip which is smaller, faster and runs cooler. I'm sure this ad had recently retired Intel CEO Andy Grove literally spitting chips.

I think much of this apparent joy and confidence has come from years of pent-up angst and fear about what was happening at Apple. We saw Sculley, Spindler and Amelio all come and go, each adding to the chaos that was Apple, until last August, when Jobs returned to the Apple orchard.

The new board is also giving Apple a lot of credibility, and the share price is reflecting investors' new found faith in this company. All without being sold to Microsoft, IBM or Sun. Its continued success is due to Apple going back to its core (no pun intended) and producing hardware and an operating system that is unique, effective and a pleasure to use.

Perhaps Apple isn't thinking "different", but thinking the same, the same as it did way back in 1984, when a strange, odd shaped computer called Macintosh greeted the world. ☞

Peter Schmideg is a trainer and management consultant who can be reached at www.pscsco.com.au.



Pablo Picasso graces the side of a building as part of Apple's current international marketing push which has played an important role in generating renewed optimism in our platform this year.

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Apple Colour StyleWriter 4500	495
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Netcomm Flex 56k	275
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